

# *Journal of UFO History*

## VOLUME I.



### **SPECIAL OMNIBUS EDITION**

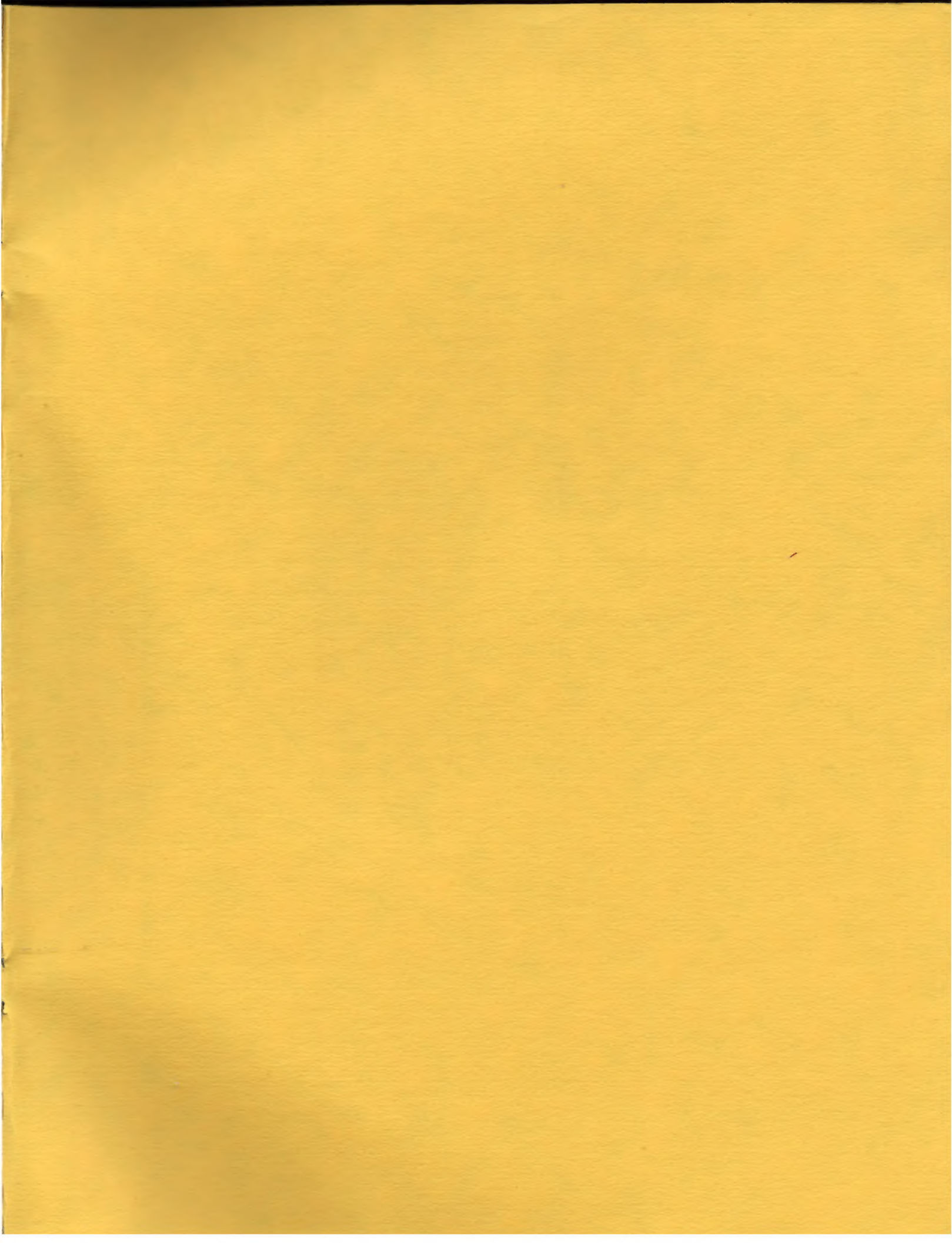
**ISSUE NUMBERS 1-6**  
March 2004 - February 2005

Richard H. Hall, Editor

Published by the Fund for UFO Research  
P.O. Box 7501  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

July 2006





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## FOREWORD

This volume contains under one cover the first six issues published of the *Journal of UFO History* (12 pages per issue). The *Journal* was inaugurated in March 2004 and has been published bimonthly continuously since then, six issues per year. The first year was completed with the January-February 2005 issue. Each new volume of six issues, therefore, begins in March.

The first six issues are here reproduced exactly as published, errors and all. Nothing has been added or changed. Factual errors normally were corrected in the next issue. However, one error that never got corrected was the reported date of the Air Force Top Secret Estimate of the Situation concluding that UFOs were of extraterrestrial origin. The correct date of issuance was approximately September 1948, not 1949 or later.

Regular and periodical features of the *Journal* include chronologies of UFO sightings and related events, transcripts of important broadcasts, essays on various aspects of UFO sightings and human responses to them, interviews with prominent people involved in historical UFO research and/or document preservation, and both official and private documents and correspondence.

Issues beginning with Vol. II, No. 1, March-April 2005, are available from me at the rate of \$28 for six issues, \$50 for 12 issues, or \$4.75 per single issue. (Prices for overseas subscriptions include Air Letter postage and are slightly higher. See my web site for schedule: [www.hallrichard.com](http://www.hallrichard.com)).

Volume III, No. 1, for March-April 2006 was published in April. The schedule for the rest of the year and into 2007 is:

Volume III, No. 2, May-June 2006

Volume III, No. 3, July-August 2006

Volume III, No. 4, September-October 2006

Volume III, No. 5, November-December 2006

Volume III, No. 6, January-February 2007

New subscriptions or back copies can be ordered from me at the address below. Make payment via check or money order in U.S. funds, or by PayPal ([dh12@erols.com](mailto:dh12@erols.com))

Since the first volume was out of print, I am grateful to the Fund for UFO Research for publishing this omnibus volume that will make the early issues available to a wider audience.

Richard H. Hall  
4418 39<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brentwood, MD 20722-1021

June 2006



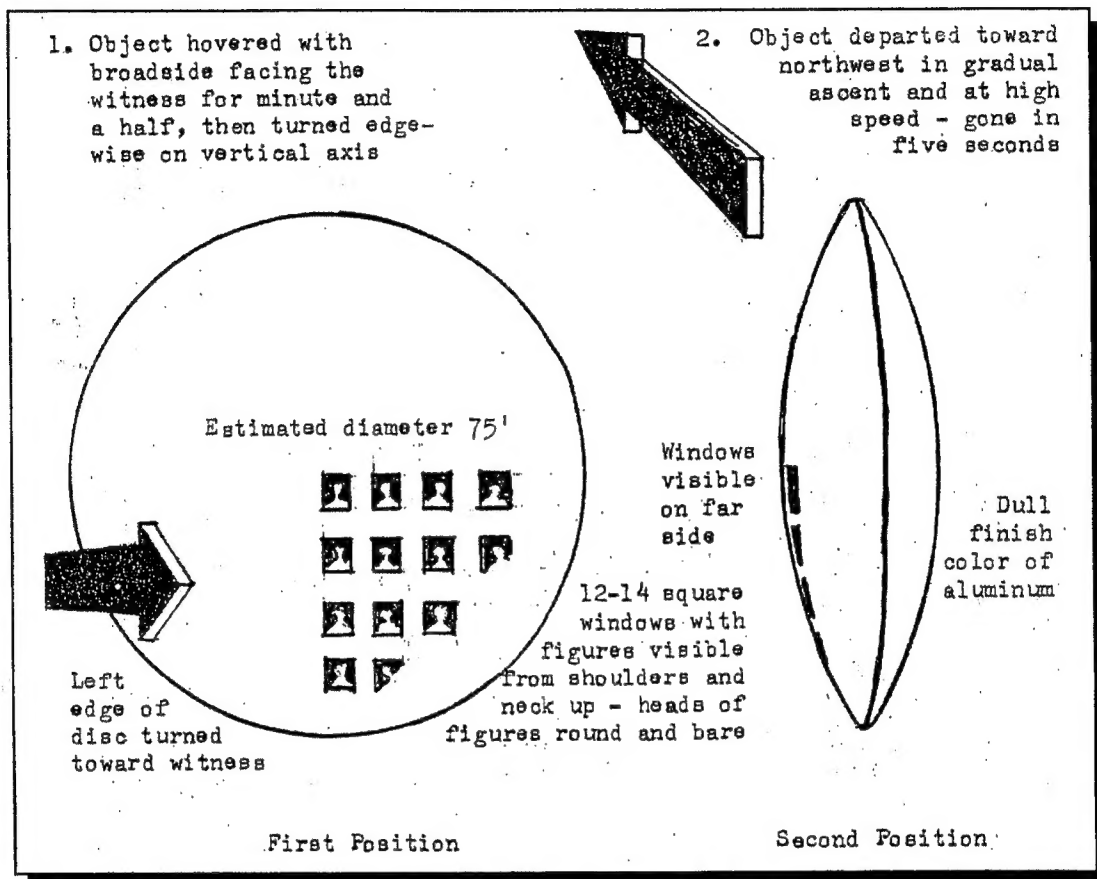
# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



Vol. I, No. 1

March-April 2004



**August 1946 Oklahoma City, Okla., UFO sighting**  
**Witness was a retired school teacher and former deputy sheriff**

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## *Journal of UFO History*

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Donald E. Keyhoe Archives

Editor: Richard H. Hall

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### EDITORIAL

The future of this Journal will depend on "market forces." If enough people are willing to subscribe, the supply of historical information on hand is nearly unlimited and publication can go on indefinitely. If the support is not there, this journal may be short-lived.

The modern history of UFOs dates back to World War II when Allied and Axis pilots both reported sightings of "foo-fighters" or strange aerial phenomena by various names. In 1946 we had Scandinavian "ghost rockets" or "ghost fliers." Then in 1947, Kenneth Arnold touched off the era of "flying saucers" with his famous sighting of a "chain" of objects over Mount Rainier, Washington State on June 24.

A rich history exists of the popular, official, news media, and scientific reactions to these reports (not to

mention the reports themselves) which we propose to present in the form of essays, commentaries, analyses, reviews, documents, letters, photographs, and interviews. Your support is invited.

All articles are written by me unless otherwise attributed. - Richard H. Hall

### Donald E. Keyhoe Archives

For those of you unfamiliar with the DEK Archives and my background, here is a brief, highly condensed history. A window into the Archives is available on my web site ([www.hallrichard.com](http://www.hallrichard.com)).

My educational background includes a degree in Philosophy with a minor in Mathematics from Tulane University. While receiving a scholarship I was required to spend a certain number of hours in the Math Department as a clerk and general helper. My duties included opening and distributing the mail addressed to the professors.

One day in 1957 a letter arrived from Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.) reporting the organization of a new Washington, D.C.-based group called the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

From that point on, my personal history became entwined with that of NICAP; the history of NICAP will be a major theme of this Journal. I spent 10 years (from 1958 through 1969) as an officer of NICAP, deeply immersed in the unfolding controversy about UFOs.

Donald E. Keyhoe was my mentor, and taught me a great deal about writing and editing. I maintain the Archives to honor his memory. I have been a writer/editor in the Washington, D.C., area for more than 45 years. - R.H.



## HISTORICAL VIEWPOINTS

A regular feature will be viewpoints and opinions about UFOs offered up over the decades by all sorts of people.

Some of the comments are astute, others sad or misguided, and some are by allegedly intelligent and educated people who should have known better than to shoot from the hip. Here is an initial sampling:

Under the headline "Saucers Explained" (*Science News Letter*, Apr. 30, 1960) **Dr. Richard P. Youtz**, a psychologist at Barnard College, New York City, says that what witnesses are reporting as "flying saucers" are only "afterimages" resulting from having looked at a bright light source.

Public health newspaper columnist **Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen** (*New York Sunday News*, Feb. 1, 1959) refers to all UFO sightings to date as "rumors"... "all proved negative." He quotes Dr. Joost A.M. Meerloo of the Netherlands to the effect that UFOs are optical illusions, afterimages, and a result of "the suspense of the cold war with the constant threat of invasion."

**Dr. Addison M. Duval**, psychiatrist and deputy director of St. Elizabeth's mental health hospital in Washington, D.C. (*New York Journal-American*, Feb. 9, 1959) avers that "seeing things which don't exist is a common result of anxiety generated by fear of the unknown."

**Dr. Bernard Lovell**, a prominent British astronomer and space scientist, director of Jodrell Bank Observatory, is quoted (*Associated Press*, Boston, Apr. 21, 1966) as saying "The UFOs are natural phenomena or hoaxes. The people who

see them must be tremendous emotionalists."

**Dr. Otto Struve**, University of California astronomer is quoted by United Press (*New York Times*, Nov. 9, 1952) as saying that the chances "flying saucers" come from another planet are small since any intelligent life forms probably would have to come from 50,000 light years away.

**Dr. Alexander Klemin**, technical editor (*Aero Digest*, March 1950): "There is nothing in the 'flying saucers' aerodynamically, nothing in them electromagnetically, nothing in them psychologically. However, they should add to the gaiety of nations and replace the sea serpent when the city editor has little news."

**Maj. Gen. Richard E. O'Keefe**, USAF, Acting Inspector General of the Air Force: "[UFOs] sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as 'flying saucers' must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business." (*Air Force Inspector General's Brief*, Dec. 24, 1959).

**Capt. Luis Sanchez Moreno**, Argentine Naval Intelligence: "I saw such objects [UFOs]. It was not a matter of stars or planets, but of mobile bodies with incredible speed and irregularity of movement." (*La Nacion*, May, 24, 1962).

**AIAA UFO Subcommittee**. In 1970, a subcommittee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics said: "Taking all evidence which has come to the Subcommittee's attention into account, we find it difficult to ignore the small residue of well-documented but unexplainable cases which form the hard core of the UFO...a phenomenon which has such a high ratio of unexplained cases (about 30%) should arouse...scientific curiosity."

## EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY ALIENS

Jenny Randles reports a 1901 "alien encounter" at Bournebrook in the West Midlands of England. Frank Warley, then a 10-year-old boy (she interviewed him about 77 years later) told of coming across a strange object in a field on a summer afternoon.

The blue-green box-shaped object had a turret on top and a door on one side, and appeared to be metallic. It was smaller than a modern small car.

Two small beings under 4 feet tall abruptly stepped out into the sunlight, dressed in greenish-gray, tight-fitting clothing that appeared to be military style. Each being wore a dark, opaque "helmet" that concealed its face and head completely. Two "wires" extended about 9 inches up from their headgear.

One of the beings approached the boy, gesturing in what appeared to be a warning to stay back, while the other remained in the doorway. As the boy stepped back, the beings quickly re-entered the craft and the door closed as if on hinges.

The craft emitted a bright flash of light like "an electric arcing effect" that circled its perimeter, there was a sudden "whooshing" noise and the object climbed into the sky arcing over the rooftops. Visible on the trailing end was a pulsating red light.

Randles notes: "What is most intriguing may be that Frank never used the word UFO in his description of this object. He merely called it a 'funny vehicle.'" (From *Aliens: The Real Story*, by Jenny Randles. London: Robert Hale, 1993, pp. 13-14.) □

## "IT'S NO JOKE. Driver at Lufkin Claims 'Saucer' Scorched Face.

Lufkin, April 21-(AP)-Jack Robertson, 28-year-old Lufkin pharmacist asserts that a flying saucer burned him.

Robertson's face had a reddish cast resembling sunburn Friday. Insisting he was not joking, he told a Lufkin Daily News reporter he acquired the burn this way:

He observed a round, flying object about eight feet in diameter, while driving alone nine miles west of Lufkin Thursday night.

He got out of his car to see the object better and it hovered about 20 feet over his head, giving off a dull red glow. It took off with a "whooshing roar" and soon was out of sight.

About five minutes later, he felt a burning sensation on his face. His clothing was not burned.

Robertson described the bottom of the object as rounded like a globe. He said it appeared to be made of aluminum, but that darkness prevented close observation.

"I'm not a drinking man and I hadn't been drinking," Robertson added. ...

Sparks flew from a slot in the craft's bottom as it took off after hovering over his head about two seconds, Robertson said.

He said that before he stopped the car the saucer had stayed about 200 feet ahead of him for some time but that he was unable to distinguish any details until he stopped and it drew close."

(*Austin Statesman*, Texas, April 22, 1950.) [Note the "whooshing" noise during departure reported both in 1901 and 1950.] □

## NICAP HISTORY:

### The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

'A8 Sunday, Feb 28, 1960 THE WASHINGTON POST

# AF Orders 'Serious' Flying Objects Check

By Alvin Spivak  
United Press International

The Air Force has sent its commands a new warning to treat sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) as "serious business" directly related to the Nation's defense, it was learned yesterday.

An Air Force spokesman confirmed issuance of the directive after portions of it were made public by a private research group.

The new regulations were issued by the Air Force Inspector General last Dec 24. The regulations outlined procedures and said that "investigations and analysis of UFOs are directly related to the Air Force's responsibility for the defense of the United States."

that the document had been issued. It was put out by Maj Gen Richard E. O'Keefe, acting inspector general at the time, and was included in an "Operations and Training" pamphlet circulated at intervals to bring commands up to date.

#### 6312 Reports Checked

The Air Force has investigated 6312 reports of UFOs since 1947, including 183 during the last six months of 1959. The latest Air Force statement issued a month ago said "no physical or material evidence, not even a minute fragment of a so-called flying saucer, has ever been found."

NICAP quoted the Inspector General as saying:

numerous contacts among the national press corps in Washington, D.C.

This story from NICAP was reported by the United Press International (UPI) newswire service in February 1960 about an Air Force Inspector General Brief issued to Air Force commands saying that UFOs were "serious business" and should be treated as such. The story appeared the same day in the New York Times with the headline:

"Air Force Order on 'Saucers' Cited:  
Pamphlet by the Inspector General  
Called Objects a 'Serious Business.'"

Some early records of NICAP during the organizational period in 1956 are on file in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives in Brentwood, Maryland.

Also on file are the records of what proved to be the last days of NICAP as a viable organization during the late 1970s and early 1980s. A puzzling series of events occurred at this time involving an odd group of people, some with military and intelligence agency backgrounds whose motives and purposes to this day remain obscure. This story needs to be told some day.

#### Suggested Reading:

"The Quest for Truth About UFOs: A Personal Perspective on the Role of NICAP," by Richard Hall in *MUFON 1994 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, pp. 185-223.

NICAP was organized and incorporated in Washington, D.C., in October of 1956 by several Washington-area businessmen and professionals (doctors, lawyers) to begin a privately sponsored study of UFOs. Its original plans were rather grandiose and funding was lacking to implement them.

Major Keyhoe was brought in as a consultant in 1957, and helped to place NICAP on a more realistic course. Still, a lack of funding continued to be a serious problem well into the 1970s.

Although never well-financed, NICAP had public relations expertise and the ability to work constructively with its



Maj. Keyhoe displays  
The UFO Evidence

### NICAP BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The NICAP Board of Governors as of late 1957 consisted of:

Dr. Marcus Bach, Theologian, Iowa City, Iowa

Rev. Albert Baller, Congregational Minister, Greenfield, Mass.

Dr. Earl Douglass, religious writer and columnist, Princeton, N.J.

Frank Edwards, Radio-TV commentator, Indianapolis, Indiana

Col. Robert B. Emerson, U.S. Army Reserve, chemist, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Maj. Dewey J. Fournet, Jr., U.S. Air Force Reserve, Baton Rouge, La.

J.B. Hartranft, Jr., President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Washington, D.C.

Vice Adm. R.H. Hillenkoetter, U.S. Navy Ret., New York, N.Y.

Rear Adm. H.B. Knowles, U.S. Navy Ret., Eliot, Maine

Rev. Leon LeVan, New Jerusalem Christian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Prof. Charles A. Maney, physics, Defiance College, Ohio

The Board in late 1957 included about equal numbers of religious figures and retired or reserve military officers, two scientists, and a newsman. The NICAP Panel of Special Advisers included three airline pilots, several additional military personnel, and others with aviation background.

The presence of Adm. Hillenkoetter, first director of the Central Intelligence Agency, on the Board was newsworthy and also enhanced NICAP's credibility.

Some conspiracy-prone people have seen his involvement as sinister, but the truth is very simple: He was a Naval Academy classmate of Major Keyhoe and supported him and his goals at NICAP.

Also, the original CIA was simply a Government initiative toward having a joint intelligence operation rather than the fragmented efforts of the military departments. The agency had not yet acquired the reputation it would obtain later for sometimes going beyond its charter, and for at times engaging in questionable activities.

The conspiratorial interpretation of Adm. Hillenkoetter's role at NICAP is based on simplistic thinking, careless and unscholarly history. The UFO field badly needs the work of real historians.



Donald E. Keyhoe, Naval Academy yearbook photo



## THE "PRE-HISTORY" OF UFOs

When were UFOs (in the modern sense) first reported? Ancient Roman and other texts mention "flying shields" and various aerial phenomena that awed the people and were recorded by scribes as marvels, and sometimes assigned a supernatural origin.

Most of these ancient reports sound very much like fireball meteors, which even today are not commonly recognized by the average person and still cause "UFO" reports.

Some Biblical accounts such as the "pillar of fire" and "Ezekiel's wheel," and reports of visits by angels, have been interpreted as ancient reports of real UFOs and encounters with aliens.

Authors on this topic have differing interpretations of the Biblical accounts. Some consider them to be literal reports of visitors from space who at the time were interpreted through a religious or supernatural filter, and others consider the UFOs and beings in terms of actual "messengers of God."

Beliefs about UFOs today generally tend to fall into two opposing camps among those who accept their reality: (1) Those who tend to be uncritical about reports of UFOs, often accepting everything seen as evidence of (usually) benevolent ET visitation; (2) Those who reject the New Age thinking and try to apply scholarly and scientific methods to study of UFO reports.

The more credible reports of UFOs in modern times trace to such sources as 19<sup>th</sup> Century scholarly and scientific journals, early 20<sup>th</sup> Century aviation books and magazines, and World War II accounts of military fliers.

In these sources reports can be found of UFOs very much like the reports of discs, cigars, and ellipses observed by people in all walks of life since 1947.

→

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF UFO HISTORY

The following are recommended for public and institutional libraries:

Aldrich, Jan L. *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report on the 1947 UFO Sighting Wave*. Fairfax, VA: UFO Research Coalition, 1997.

Aldrich, Jan L. *The Ghost Rocket Files*. Fund for UFO Research, 2000.

Clark, Jerome. *The UFO Encyclopedia: The Phenomenon from the Beginning*. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1998. ISBN 0-7808-0097-4.

Fund for UFO Research. *Index to the Case Files of project Blue Book*. FUFOR, 1997.

Fund for UFO Research. *Unidentified Flying Objects: Project Grudge*. FUFOR, 1999.

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### Suggested Reading

● "Ancient Astronauts in the UFO Literature," in Jerome Clark (ed.), *UFO Encyclopedia: The Phenomenon From the Beginning*. Volume I: A-K. Detroit: Omnigraphics, Inc., 1998, pp. 75-86.

● "Anomalous Aerial Phenomena Before 1800," Clark, 1998, pp. 121-138.

● *The Bible and Flying Saucers*, by Barry H. Downing. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1968.

● *The Books of Charles Fort*. New York: Henry Holt, 1941.

● *From Airships to Arnold: A Preliminary Catalogue of UFO Reports in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1900-1946)*, by Richard H. Hall. UFO Research Coalition, 2000.

● *Strange Phenomena: A Sourcebook of Unusual Natural Phenomena*, William R. Corliss (Comp.). Glen Arm, MD 21057.

## KEYHOE ARCHIVES INVENTORY

Contained in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives are documents, letters, audio-tapes, videotapes, newspaper clippings, journal and magazine articles, posters, fliers for UFO symposia and meetings, photographs, radio and TV broadcast transcriptions, and memorabilia.

Since virtually no funding is available for the purpose, I have never been able to completely inventory the collection. In fact, I will be the first to admit that I really don't know exactly what I do have in the DEK Archives!

What I do know is that the collection contains such major elements as these:

- Papers of and extensive personal correspondence with Dr. James E. McDonald.
- UFO sighting case files from "pre-history" to now.
- Personal and other correspondence and records of prominent people in UFO history.
- NICAP history, documents, letters, including extensive correspondence with Donald E. Keyhoe.
- News media files, government and private agency files.
- Several hundred articles about UFOs from people of all persuasions.
- CSI of New York administrative records and correspondence, 1950s and 1960s
- About 300 UFO books.
- Hundreds of audio- and videotapes

Legitimate journalists, scientists, and reputable investigators may access the archived information by appointment only.

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## SAUCER WHIMSEY

*The Space Child's Mother Goose* by Frederick Winsor was published by Simon & Schuster in 1958.

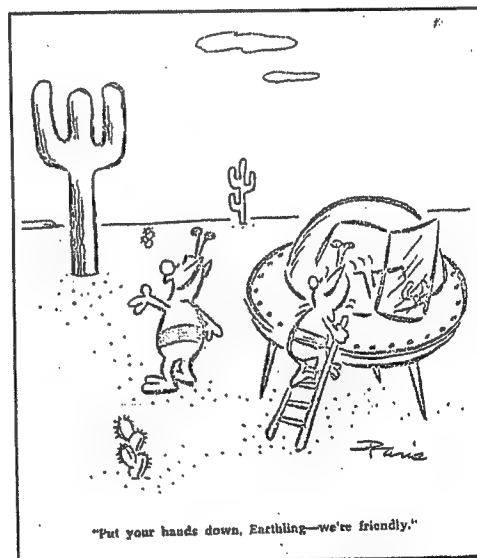
Following are a couple of excerpts:

"Probable-Possible, my black hen,  
She lays eggs in the Relative When.  
She doesn't lay eggs in the Positive Now  
Because she's unable to Postulate How."

#

"Sing a song of saucers  
Flown from outer space.  
Four-and-twenty generals,  
Crimson in the face.

"The saucers conquered gravity  
So they all began to spin...  
And, Gentlemen, if you'll pardon me,  
This is where I came in."



"Put your hands down Earthling--  
we're friendly."

Contact me at [dh12@erols.com](mailto:dh12@erols.com), or by letter to 4418 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Brentwood, MD 20722

## DIALOGUE WITH . . .

⇒ WENDY A. CONNORS

### Preservation of Historical UFO Audiovisual Records

Wendy Connors is quietly and busily at work at her home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, preserving UFO-related records for posterity. I asked her to talk about this important work.



Hall: What is "Faded Discs" and what is its purpose?

Connors: "Faded" is a term I use to describe the condition of early audio recordings and "Discs" denotes the beginning of the so-called flying disc phenomenon in late 1946. Thus "Faded Discs" is literally recordings from Ufology that have long been forgotten, not just by researchers, but by the general population that is interested in this unique 20<sup>th</sup> Century phenomenon.

The purpose is to ensure that early recordings be located and preserved by using modern-day technologies. Sound quality is often poor, and it sometimes takes me many hours using computer technology to clean the recording to make it as listenable as possible.

Just attempting to locate and acquire an old recording is a challenge in itself and can be very costly. Many recordings are poorly marked as to content, and it is an interesting quest to find the story behind the recording.

Hall: How many recordings do you have?

Connors: Currently, there are over 800 recordings in my collection dating from 1938 to 1977. I concentrate on these years since tape recorders were not generally abundant until the late 1970s, so recordings after 1977 are usually available.

However, I do collect the rarer recordings from the 1980s to date, but the bulk of those in the collection are from the late 1940s to the mid-1970s.

Hall: Why have you been motivated to preserve these records?

Connors: This is a question that can only be answered from the heart. After many decades of reading the UFO literature, I realized that the written record negates the human element that went into the writing.

The voice of a person describing an event or concept is far more concrete in giving understanding and awareness to the written record. Actually hearing the person gives UFO history more depth and provides a better understanding of the human characteristics.

When I began doing this project, I felt a great renewal in my research. Many of my ideas and beliefs were changed by actually hearing the first-hand accounts of UFO encounters from the witnesses themselves and learning about the work of early researchers.

To say that I was "hooked" would be an understatement. Combining the spoken record with the written record

*(Continued on next page)*

### Connors dialogue, continued

proved to be a powerful combination when it comes to understanding.

Hall: What do you think of the field of Ufology today?

Connors: I view it with more awe than I did when I began my personal quest back in the 1950s. As time has passed there have been many new avenues to explore. It is no longer possible to remain a generalist in the field. Ufology now requires specialization because it has become far too complex in its evolution.

Hall: What do you think is the future of Ufology?

Connors: As Spirit and Opportunity travel across the face of Mars, I can't help but feel that the day is coming very soon when we will know that intelligent life exists beyond ourselves. Probably we will first discover microbial life, but as we journey among the stars in eons hence, first contact will eventually be made.

Hall: What are some of your latest products?

Connors: My first and foremost priority is the preservation of the recordings still awaiting digitalization. Working alone, I continue to struggle with the enormity of the project, since I average 12 hours a day doing it. But, I am trying to put together more compilations of specific events or personages so they remain together, instead of helter-skelter.

Researchers benefit because they will have most of the audio record

to use in their projects. Of course, I request a donation amount to cover expenses but I provide a lot of "bang for the buck."

Hall: You certainly do, and the users should be generous in their donations.

Connors: The first compilation I offered was "Ufology: A Primer in Audio - 1939 to 1959." It contains 101 recordings and has a running time of approximately 8 hours.

Two new compilations are currently available. They are: "Men in Black, Mothman, Flatwoods Monster and the UFO/Hairy Biped" (6 hours); and "Project Magnet: W.B. Smith and the New Science."

Upcoming compilations will include George Adamski; Aztec, New Mexico crash-retrieval case; and recordings of Dr. James E. McDonald.

Hall: How can people order copies?

Connors: I ask for a \$20 donation for compilations, but that money is used for equipment repair, postage, labels, ink, mailers, and other supplies. Anyone interested in obtaining compilations or individual recordings can contact me though my web site or through the mail. [Addresses provided below.]

Hall: Anything else you would like to say to people interested in UFO history?

Connors: I am pleased to be a regular on Errol Bruce-Knapp's radio program "Strange Days...Indeed" on CFRB 1010 in Toronto, Canada. I use my appearances

*(Continued on next page)*



# CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY: 1947-1950

June 24, 1947: Kenneth Arnold sighting above Mt. Rainier, Washington State.

Sept. 23, 1947: Air Technical Intelligence Center letter sent to commanding general of the Air Force stating that UFOs are real.

Jan. 7, 1948: Capt. Thomas Mantell, Air National Guard pilot, killed in crash while pursuing a UFO.

→

## Connors dialogue, continued

there to share audio clips from UFO history, and it seems to be very popular and a way to get the information out to serious researchers as well.

Hall: Where can people hear the program?

Connors: "Strange Days...Indeed" is available in streaming audio via the internet and on CFRB 1010 in Toronto or CJAD 800 in Montreal on Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. EST.

### To contact Wendy Connors

For information, to place orders, and to make PayPal donations:

[fadeddiscs@comcast.net](mailto:fadeddiscs@comcast.net)

Web site: [www.fadeddiscs.com](http://www.fadeddiscs.com)

Mailing address: Wendy A. Connors,  
P.O. Box 8552, Albuquerque, NM  
87198

Jan. 22, 1948: Project Sign (or "Saucer") established by Air Force.

August 1948: Air Technical Intelligence Center Top Secret "Estimate of the Situation" sent to Air Force Chief of Staff concluding that UFOs were spaceships from another planet. Report was not accepted for "lack of proof."

Apr. 27, 1949: Project Sign report issued stating that interplanetary visitors were "improbable." Acknowledged that many unexplained cases remained.

June 10, 1949: Two round white objects maneuvered around a missile in flight at White Sands, New Mexico.

Fall 1949: Radar tracking of 5 apparently metallic objects at high speed over a key atomic base. (Case from Air Force in LIFE Magazine, Apr. 17, 1952.)

Dec. 27, 1949: Air Force issued "Project Grudge" report explaining away all UFO sightings as delusions, hysteria, hoaxes, and crackpot reports.

January 1950: Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe article in TRUE Magazine, "Flying Saucers Are Real," argued that UFOs must be from another planet.

March 1950: Cmdr. R.B. McLaughlin, USN, article in TRUE Magazine "How Scientists Tracked a Flying Saucer," reported the Apr. 24, 1949, tracking of an elliptical UFO by theodolite at White Sands, N.M.

*(To be continued)*

## 'Flying Saucer' Sighted By Airline Pilot Over Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, March 21 (AP)—Arkansas' first flying saucer in nearly three years was reported last night—and by a veteran airlines pilot.

Capt. Jack Adams of Little Rock, pilot of a Chicago & Southern Airlines plane enroute from Memphis, Tenn., to Houston, Texas, radioed the CBS opera-

tions office here that he had sighted the object near Stuttgart, Arkansas.

On landing here a few minutes later, he confirmed the radio report. He said the object—with conventional aircraft running lights—was sighted at about 3,000 feet on a northerly course, flying at tremendous speed and leaving no vapor trail.

ing from the ports, but not, a bright one."

Adams said this disc was in view about 20 seconds, and maintained a direct and level course.

He said he saw no vapor trail, nor any exhaust flames that might indicate a source of power. It made no noise that he could hear over the sound of his own engines.

Bryan, Texas, *Daily Eagle*, Mar. 21, 1950  
Associated Press story, Little Rock, Ark.

UFO sightings by airline and military pilots in 1949 and 1950 caused the U.S. Air Force to step up its investigation of UFO reports.

On March 20, 1950, near Stuttgart, Arkansas, the crew of a Chicago & Southern Airlines DC-3 saw a circular object as it flew across their path at high speed.

"There was a bright white light flashing intermittently from the top of the thing," Capt. Jack Adams told newsmen. "Around the edge were what appeared to be ports., something like the windows in an airplane."

Adams said the object flew at "tremendous speed" and showed no sign of any exhaust or vapor trail. □

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**dh12@erols.com**

## WEB SITES FOR UFO HISTORY

The following UFO web sites contain useful information on the history of UFOs and related events.

[www.nicap.dabsol.co.uk](http://www.nicap.dabsol.co.uk) (NICAP)

Francis L. Ridge. Continues and builds on the work of NICAP. The case files have links to supporting documents. The sighting files are classified in various categories (e.g., radar tracking, physical effects, animal reactions).

[www.project1947.com](http://www.project1947.com) (Project 1947)  
Jan L. Aldrich. Early history of UFOs through 1950s. Also in conjunction with Sign Historical Group, early history of Air Force UFO project.

[www.theozfiles.com](http://www.theozfiles.com) (The Oz Files)  
Bill Chalker, Australia. Concentrates on Australian UFO history, including study of aboriginal sightings and lore.

[www.cohenufos.org](http://www.cohenufos.org) (Jerry Cohen)  
Strong on UFO history, case studies, dialogue, and letters.

[www.cufon.org](http://www.cufon.org) (Computer UFO Network)  
Dale Goudie. A high quality, multi-faceted site: documents, interviews, cases.

[www.afu.info/index.htm](http://www.afu.info/index.htm) (Archives for UFO Research/AFU, Sweden). Anders Liljegren. Major collection of historical UFO material from many countries.

[www.narcap.org](http://www.narcap.org) (National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena). Flight crew sightings. □

## 'Flying Saucer' Sighted By Airline Pilot Over Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, March 21 (AP)—Arkansas' first flying saucer sighting was reported last night—and by a veteran airline pilot.

Capt. Jack Adams of Little Rock, pilot of a Chicago & Southern Airlines plane enroute from Memphis, Tenn., in Houston, Texas, radioed the C&S operations office here that he had sighted the object near Stuttgart, Arkansas.

On landing here a few minutes later, he confirmed the radio report. He said the object—with conventional aircraft passing lights—was sighted at about 3,000 feet on a northerly course, flying at tremendous speed and leaving no vapor trail.

Adams said the disc was in view about 20 seconds, and maintained a direct and level course. He said he saw no vapor trail, nor any exhaust flames that might indicate a source of power. It made no noise that he could hear over the sound of his own engines.

Bryan, Texas, *Daily Eagle*, Mar. 21, 1950  
Associated Press story, Little Rock, Ark.

UFO sightings by airline and military pilots in 1949 and 1950 caused the U.S. Air Force to step up its investigation of UFO reports.

On March 20, 1950, near Stuttgart, Arkansas, the crew of a Chicago & Southern Airlines DC-3 saw a circular object as it flew across their path at high speed.

"There was a bright white light flashing intermittently from the top of the thing," Capt. Jack Adams told newsmen. "Around the edge were what appeared to be ports., something like the windows in an airplane."

Adams said the object flew at "tremendous speed" and showed no sign of any exhaust or vapor trail. □

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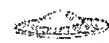
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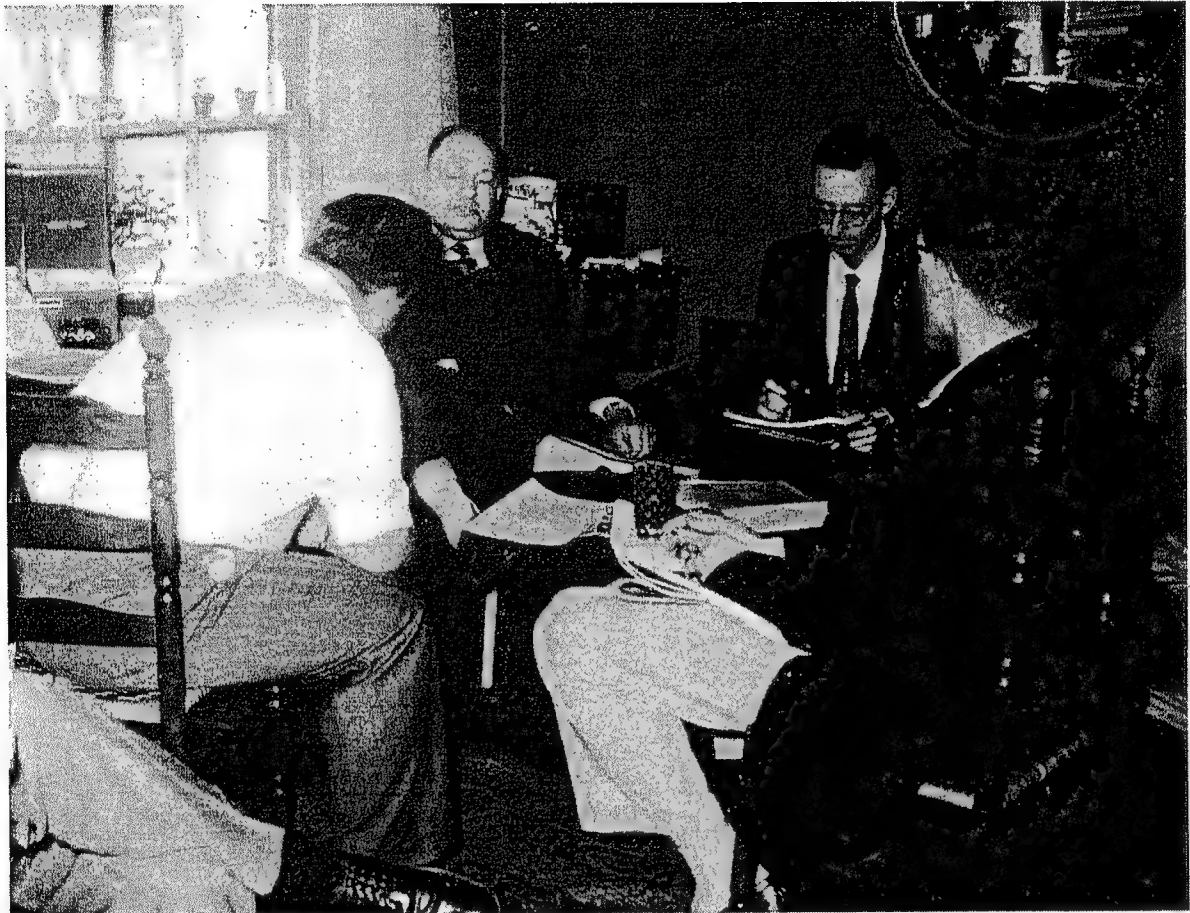
# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



Vol. I, No. 2

May-June 2004



Early UFO summit meeting in New York City, March 28, 1959 (story page 3).

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### EDITORIAL

This issue features a variety of information on UFO history from the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives, including excerpts from a 1966 NBC-TV special. Your suggestions are invited on the types of information you would like to see included in future issues.

Among the planned future content are correspondence and documents of noted UFO researchers from around the world, past news media coverage of UFOs, excerpts of significant letters and reports, rare photographs, and more interviews in the "Dialogue" series. →

### Cover photo

Between 1958 and 1965, NICAP staff members made frequent pilgrimages to New York City, to visit Isabel Davis, Ted Bloecher, and Lex Mebane of CSI. Their valuable files were housed in Isabel's apartment in Greenwich Village.

The cover photo was taken during one such trip by Walter N. Webb, NICAP Adviser, Massachusetts. Left to right are Bud Ledwith, Ohio; Albert Andre, Tennessee; Dick Hall, Washington, D.C., and Ted Bloecher.

Just out of the picture in the left foreground is Don Neill, NICAP staff volunteer, who also made the trip from Washington.

Davis and Bloecher later became NICAP staff members and were in Washington during the big UFO wave of 1966-67.

We hope to encourage international coverage of UFO history, and invite contributions from researchers in other countries

If you wish to comment on anything in the Journal, send a clearly labeled "Letter to the Editor" (by e-mail or regular mail) and it will be considered for publication. Please keep it brief and to the point.

Longer commentaries or articles (200 to 500 words) also are invited from anyone who would like to contribute analyses, information, documents, or photographs directly relevant to the history of UFOs. □

**NOTABLE BROADCASTS OF THE PAST**  
**"THE OPEN MIND"-NBC PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRESENTATION**  
**February 27, 1966**  
***"Are Flying Saucers Only Science Fiction?"***

(Transcript on file at the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives.)

This television special was broadcast from New York City on Feb. 27, 1966, and later re-broadcast on educational TV around the country.

Eric F. Goldman, professor of history, Princeton University, was moderator. Panelists included Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, John Fuller, Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, and Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

The first topic discussed was the then-recent, multiple witness sightings at Exeter, New Hampshire, on Sept. 3, 1965, investigated by John Fuller, and Menzel and Fuller immediately clashed. Following are some excerpts:

Menzel: *The Exeter sightings seem pretty much run of the mill to me...the pattern is very similar to those in the many thousands of cases that I have examined in the Air Force files.*

Fuller: *I went up to Exeter for 24 days. I interviewed 60 people. I tape-recorded 70 hours of tape. I cross-examined these people. I did not just interview them; I threw questions at them that would throw them off. I tried to disprove this. Now, were you up there in Exeter, Dr. Menzel, to investigate this?*

Menzel: *No, I was not...Because I don't have time to investigate every one of*

**Sept. 3, 1965 Exeter, New Hampshire**

One of the "classic" cases of the American UFO literature, it began when a frightened youth reported to police that he had been approached by a glowing red, elliptical object at low level.

Police responding to the report also sighted the object at close range. It had a row of pulsating red lights on its side. Animals also reacted to the object.

John Fuller's investigation, initially reported in LOOK Magazine, attracted a lot of attention. Later the case was detailed in his book *Incident At Exeter*.

*these cases....*

Fuller: *...The police officers who were involved with this sighted it at below tree-top level and watched it for 8 or 9 minutes, while two of them checked each other out, and three other civilians reported the same phenomenon within the hour and within a distance of, say, 6 miles.*

Goldman: *Did any of you other gentlemen read Mr. Fuller's piece [in*

(Continued on next page)

## Open Mind, continued

**NBC Panelists**

John G. Fuller, author, journalist and columnist for the *Saturday Review*.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Astronomy Department, Northwestern University.

Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Director, Harvard College Observatory.

Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, professor of plant physiology, Colorado State University.

Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, assistant professor of psychology, University of Wyoming.

LOOK Magazine], or do you know the facts?

Salisbury: I read it also....I was very impressed. It seemed to me that this would be the kind of a sighting that ought to be thoroughly investigated...I would like to hear Dr. Menzel's ideas about how it is run of the mill. It seemed to me that it was not run of the mill, that there was enough detail involved that it's pretty hard to imagine [its being] the Planet Venus, or a weather balloon, or something like that-- the usual explanations which must fit many of these sightings....Here [in light of repeated sightings] would have been a chance for the Air Force or whoever was interested to move in and perhaps do something really scientific for a change, instead of studying it after the fact which is what they otherwise

always have to do.

Menzel: By "run of the mill," I meant the disagreement between the two observers, the two police officers. One of them said a hundred feet, and that seems to be the person you have quoted, but the other one said 9,000 feet away and possibly 2 to 3 miles. Now, this is exactly the same place [sic; presumably he meant to say "the same sort of thing"] in the official report.

Fuller: Dr. Menzel...I tape-recorded the two policemen on the spot and I had them re-enact everything that went on. He did not say 9,000 feet. He said it was just immediately over the trees when the second policeman, Patrolman David Hunt, arrived....

[Several of the panelists participated in a discussion of French author Aime Michel's arguments about UFOs being sighted along straight lines.]

Hynek: But it [Michel's work] is an interesting phenomenon in that he tried to do one thing that would be valuable, I believe, and that is he tried to do something objective, where you don't have to believe the witness. You simply tried to see if there was some relationship.

Sprinkle: Or disbelieve the witness.

Hynek: Or disbelieve the witness.

Fuller: Well, Dr. Menzel, I find that I disagree with your book, but I do agree with you in this case, only because there hasn't been enough scientific study on the subject....I don't care what you do, but go out thoroughly to prove or disprove.

(Continued on next page)

## Open Mind, continued

[Eventually the discussion came back to the Exeter case. After some further argument between Menzel and Fuller, the moderator intervened.]

Goldman: Excuse me. Mr. Menzel, there is a question here of fact. You are referring to these two men who are the key to this story as hysterical, and he [Fuller] objects to that. Why do you refer to them as hysterical?

Menzel: It was certainly clear from the whole picture that the man was frightened--frightened to death and he became hysterical.

Fuller: Which man?

Menzel: The original man who saw the --

Fuller: What was his name?

Menzel: I'm sorry; I don't know his name.

Fuller: How old was he?

Menzel: I was referring to the question of hallucination of a camera [sic; this was a reference made in a previous exchange], and then you start giving me an inquisition. Now, will you shut up?

Fuller: That's what I gave--everybody I talked to there I gave an inquisition.

Goldman: Gentlemen, there is obviously a complete clash in interpreting what these men were like--

Menzel: I refuse to be subjected to an inquisition here. Now you--

Sprinkle: Mr. Chairman [sic], I would like to speak to this question about hallucination and hysteria and so forth. It seem to me that depending on one's definition of what these conditions are like, that it is just as unscientific to postulate these conditions without

examination as it is unscientific for me to say, because I have seen two phenomena that I couldn't understand, that this right away is something....

[The moderator raised issues of how scientists should go about investigating UFO reports.]

Menzel: [In response to comments by Salisbury and the moderator] I agree that we certainly could do a lot more toward scientific investigation of the phenomena of flying saucers than we have, but I certainly would like to come back to this question of hallucinations and cameras, because there have been many, many hoaxes and there have been many unintentional hoaxes because of internal reflections in cameras, and it is very questionable just to believe what you see on a camera film just because the camera has recorded it.

Hynek: In fact, most of the hoaxes we had at Wright Field have been accompanied by photographs.

[Toward the end of the program both Hynek and Menzel summed up their views in the context of discussion about what needed to be done.]

Hynek: As consultant to the Air Force, I have now strongly recommended to the Air Force directly that a panel of scientists be set up, not only astronomers and physicists, but psychologists and various others, to study the total UFO phenomena [sic], not whether we are being visited or not, but the first step there is that people have got to do some homework. I have looked at these things for 18 years, over

(Continued on next page)



## Open Mind, continued

*10,000 reports, and I'm still puzzled.*

Goldman: [After saying they had one minute to go] *Is this something that you'll go along with as a sensible suggestion, Mr. Menzel?*

Menzel: *There is one point that I would like to make in conclusion, and this is that there are hundreds and probably thousands of different kinds of flying saucers, and they have natural explanations in terms of natural phenomena, in terms of reflections from material objects.*

Goldman: *You don't think the scientific group is necessary?*

Menzel: *Well, I think that it could help in the elucidation of some of the more erudite [sic] varieties, many of which I have investigated myself.*

[At this point the moderator thanked the guests and concluded the program.]



Post script: Ironically, about two weeks after this broadcast, a major wave of UFO sightings began, focused initially in Michigan and New England. It set in motion a series of events that led to Congressional hearings, an intensive internal review of the Air Force UFO investigation, and establishment of the University of Colorado UFO Project to conduct an independent study. Both Dr. Hynek and Dr. Menzel were invited to brief the Colorado project scientists and staff members. →

## NOTABLE QUOTES

**Dr. David M. Jacobs**, professor of history, Temple University. "Because few scientists have [carefully studied the literature and conducted field investigations], most know practically nothing about UFOs. Their ignorance of the subject has much to do with their attitudes toward it." (UFO congress paper, 1980.)

**Albert Einstein**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey. [In answer to a letter from a California minister]: "These people have seen something. What it is I do not know and I am not curious to know. (July 23, 1952 letter.)

**Maj. Gen. Donald J. Keirn**, chief of Air Force nuclear engine program. "We have no proof that intelligent beings exist elsewhere, but UFO reports have emphasized our innate curiosity... [Some] may have already achieved a higher level of social and technological culture than our own." (Talk to Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, 1959.)

## Suggested reading

■ John G. Fuller, *Incident at Exeter*. NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1966.

■ Donald H. Menzel & Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*. NY: Doubleday, 1963.

■ Frank B. Salisbury, *The Utah UFO Display*. Old Greenwich, CT: Devin-Adair, 1974.

■ J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*. Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1972.

## CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY: 1950

(Note: This is a continuing feature, with installments in each issue.)

(As this sample suggests, March-May 1950 was a period in which significant UFO reports from highly credible witnesses were frequent. This is an important consideration in the interpretation of UFO history. In modern terminology, "Who knew what and when did they know it?")

March 8, 1950. Dayton, Ohio. A round UFO seen by the crew of a TWA airliner was tracked on radar and chased by two F-51 fighter planes.

March 16, 1950. Dallas, Texas. A Navy chief petty officer saw a flat oval UFO pass beneath a B-36 bomber.

March 17, 1950. Farmington, New Mexico. A retired Army captain and many others saw dozens of flying discs gyrating around in the sky.

March 18, 1950. Near Bradford, Illinois. A private pilot reported seeing a luminous oval object pass his plane at high speed.

March 20, 1950. Near Little Rock, Arkansas. The pilots of a Chicago & Southern Airlines plane saw a disc-shaped object with portholes pass above them. (See Vol. I, No. 1.)

March 26, 1950. Near Washington, D.C. A former Air Force aircraft inspector dove his airplane toward a disc-shaped object, which zoomed up into an overcast.

March 29, 1950. Ironwood, Michigan. Seven pilots at the airport observed a round UFO moving directly into a strong wind, oscillating from side to side.

April 27, 1950. White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico. A UFO was spotted by ground observers during a missile firing and photographed by an Askania Cinetheodolite team.

April 27, 1950. Goshen, Indiana. A TWA airliner was paced by a reddish disc-like UFO.

May 11, 1950. McMinnville, Oregon. A farm couple saw and photographed a hovering disc. Photos published in LIFE Magazine.

May 20, 1950. Flagstaff, Arizona. A prominent astronomer observed what he said was a "powered" disc-like object from the grounds of Lowell Observatory.

May 29, 1950. Near Washington, D.C. The pilots of an American Airlines plane reported that a dark elliptical UFO completely circled their aircraft.

May 29, 1950. White Sands proving Grounds, New Mexico. A UFO was spotted by two theodolite tracking stations, and was tracked and photographed by both stations.

See Donald E. Keyhoe Archives on  
Richard Hall's web site:  
[www.hallrichard.com](http://www.hallrichard.com)

## **DIALOGUE WITH ...**

→ JAN L. ALDRICH

### **Early UFO History: Documents & Records**

Jan Aldrich is a retired U.S. Army master sergeant, and a long-time participant in UFO studies. I



**Jan L. Aldrich**

recall knowing him back in the 1960s when he was a NICAP member. Also, he resides in my home state of Connecticut, in Canterbury. Jan is still deeply involved in UFO studies, having a particular interest in the historical aspects. I asked him to discuss his UFO-related activities.

Hall: Jan, your "Project 1947" focuses on the early history of UFOs, but also covers UFO history before 1947 and into the 1950s, is that right?

Aldrich: The primary interest of Project 1947 is the events in 1947, then in order of priority pre-1947 incidents, UFO events during 1948-1965, and official and scientific interest and investigations of UFOs.

Hall: Why do you concentrate on the early years?

Aldrich: I have always been fascinated by UFO-like events that occurred prior to 1947. During the 1947 UFO wave many such stories came out or were recounted from earlier sources, so I wanted to research them. Screening newspapers had been very profitable in the past. While clipping services were enlisted in UFO research before 1965, the coverage of press stories was never comprehensive. After 1965 many researchers utilized clippings services, so I used 1965 as an arbitrary cut-off point. In retrospect, probably the end of Project Blue Book would have been a better date.

Hall: The UFO Research Coalition published your report on the 1947 sighting wave in 1997. How did that build on Ted Bloecher's earlier report?

Aldrich: I only found out about Bloecher's research project when it was nearly completed. Ted went on to add hundreds more reports to the over 850 in his published work, The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947.

(Continued on next page)

### Aldrich dialogue, continued

In 1993, I reviewed the nearly 1,300 incidents from his research, and found that there were still many, many reports from this era to be uncovered in newspapers all over the world. Basically, much of the work of Project 1947 is an extension of Ted's newspaper research which has involved screening 5,000 newspapers. However, the big advantage we now have is access to many official records from this era. Project 1947 confirmed something noted independently by you, Aime Michel, and Dr. James McDonald in letters to Bloecher, that almost all types of UFO behavior and appearance were first noted in 1947 accounts.

Hall: The Fund for UFO Research also published your report on the Scandinavian "Ghost Rocket" sightings of 1946. How do you think those reports, which seemed to be describing missile-like objects, tie in to modern-day UFO reports? Do you think they were part of the same phenomenon or phenomena?

Aldrich: I frankly don't know what to make of the Ghost Rockets (GRs). In an interview I did with Clas Svahn, Swedish UFO researcher, he revealed some surprising information: GRs continued on from 1946 to the mid-1990s, but took a significant drop after the fall of the Soviet Union. Researchers continue to find more and more official documents from the UK, Sweden,

and US archives, but the history is far from complete. One might say that the GRs investigation in Sweden was the first UFO inquiry, and some of the players in GRs became players in UFO investigations.

Hall: In addition to all of your other activities you, along with Tom Tulien, have been a driving force in the Sign Historical Group (SHG). Where did that name come from?

Aldrich: Wendy Connors suggested the name which obviously comes from her interest in the first Air Force UFO investigation, but the name is also neutral. It doesn't mention UFOs, ET, aliens, etc. The Sign name can have many connotations, "sign of the times," "sign of things to come," etc. SHG's purpose is to record and preserve the history of UFOs. It doesn't matter whether UFOs exist or not, the Air Force investigated them, Keyhoe wrote about them, they have history which can be researched.

Hall: What is SHG doing currently?

Aldrich: There are three areas: 1) historical preservation, obtaining files and documents from individuals and organizations and preserving them; 2) research, especially producing oral histories of UFO witnesses, investigators, government officials and scientists; and 3) cataloguing significant UFO

(Continued on next page)

### Aldrich dialogue, continued

and related materials. The main thrust of the oral history program is to document incidents involving nuclear weapons or at nuclear facilities.

Hall: I think any serious student of UFO history would want to own a copy of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop Proceedings published in 1999. Are copies of the Proceedings still available? Will you tell the readers a little about its content?

Aldrich: It was not a best seller; plenty of the Proceedings are available. It is also available on-line at [www.project1947.com/shg/](http://www.project1947.com/shg/). Basically, we now use the Proceedings to introduce ourselves to interviewees. Once they see it, they know that we are serious.

Hall: I know that you and I share a highly critical attitude toward many current activities among UFO proponents who behave less than scientifically. Would you care to comment about some of the things that you find most offensive?

Aldrich: I think the most alarming component is the great lack of critical thinking within the ranks of UFO proponents. Skilled story-telling often seems preferred over careful investigations, especially if the story whets the appetite of proponents' by playing into sensational theories and beliefs. I

have also noted argumentation tactics used by both skeptics and proponents which, while not new, are well suited to the computer age. These tactics involve editing or deleting the opponents points, answering only a small detail and pretending that the whole point has been answered, and using rhetorical tricks to try to divert attention from the actual lack of factual refutation in their arguments. While such tactics may be found popular in a debating society, they do not help in reaching reasonable conclusions.

Hall: What would you say to hard-nose UFO skeptics who dismiss the subject as nonsense?

Aldrich: I would say that they prefer pat little skeptical one-liners over careful examination of the core UFO cases. That said, a large portion of UFO proponents act as de facto allies of these people, because they give con-men, hoaxers and other questionable characters credence. This just gives the nay sayers ammunition for their dismissal of any serious consideration of the UFO phenomenon. Unfortunately, it is the UFO witnesses who pay the price for the belief systems of both sides. Most of the hard core case I have read indicate perplexed people trying honestly to describe something beyond their ordinary experience.

(Continued on next page)



### Aldrich dialogue, continued

Hall: Where do we go from here? What do you think is necessary in order to make some progress in serious, scholarly study of UFOs?

Aldrich: Overall, I tend to be very discouraged at the foolishness within ufology, however, then, I looked at the large number of people who have contributed to Project 1947 and other serious efforts.

Most of serious ufology is a volunteer effort with people overtaxed and vastly underfunded. One would hope for their sake and for the UFO witnesses, that ufology as a whole would stop chasing every new fantastic claim and fad that comes along.

Maybe the best thing would be to concentrate on a few aspects that would appeal to official or scientific interests. One reason for the interest in the nuclear connection is that it does have national security implications.

SHG proposed about three dozen low cost historical projects to the CFI (Committee for Freedom of Information) and the SCI-FI channel, however these projects do not have the sensational appeal needed in a pop-culture world.

Since a number of these require little financial support, we are proceeding with some of these slowly on our own. □

**For further information, see  
[www.project1947.com](http://www.project1947.com)**

***Proceedings of the Sign  
Historical Group UFO History  
Workshop***, Thomas Tulien (ed.)  
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### UFO HISTORY WEB SITES

Correction. The NICAP web site address was listed incorrectly in the last issue. The correct address for this highly recommended web site is [www.nicap.org](http://www.nicap.org) A rich goldmine of historical information.

#### ***Other web sites of interest:***

[www.fufor.com](http://www.fufor.com) (The Fund for UFO Research).

[www.cufos.org](http://www.cufos.org) (The Center for UFO Studies).

[www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com) (The Mutual UFO Network). Beautifully designed.

[www.larryhatch.net](http://www.larryhatch.net) (UFO sighting map plottings and analysis.)

[www.cisu.org](http://www.cisu.org) (Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici-CISU). Italian. English site: [www.ufo.it/english/cisu.htm](http://www.ufo.it/english/cisu.htm)

[www.anomalia.org](http://www.anomalia.org) (Fundacion Anomalia; V.-J. Ballester Olmos). Spanish. UFO research funding organization.

## HISTORICAL CASE UPDATE

### A FAMOUS DATE IN UFO HISTORY: APRIL 24, 1964

On April 24, 1964, in Newark Valley, New York, Gary Wilcox, a young farmer, had an encounter with a shiny egg-shaped object and two small humanoid beings.

This was the same day that in Socorro, New Mexico, Officer Lonnie Zamora encountered a landed egg-shaped object and two humanoid beings.

Wilcox's sighting was at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, and Zamora's sighting was at about 5:45 p.m. Mountain Time.

NICAP investigators, including Walter Webb from the neighboring state of Massachusetts, conducted thorough investigations of the Wilcox case. A summary of the case appears on pages 474-476 of *The UFO Evidence, Volume II* (Scarecrow Press, 2001).

On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the case, the editor received an e-mail about a follow-up interview, and requested and received permission to reproduce it here. The following is a verbatim quote.

It happened that I knew Gary Wilcox in the years before his sighting and some years after the date. He was a member of my brother's graduating class (Newark Valley Central School, upstate NY, 1954). As a school kid, Gary was very shy, never would have done anything to attract attention to himself. As the record relates, he was a farmer at the time of the sighting, and held another job as well. He may have been stressed out, due to the double jobs, fatigue, and the economics of attempting to survive

with a small, increasingly marginal, dairy at that time.

Later, he worked for IBM, in Endicott, NY, and was a first line manager. He had lost his shyness by this time, and was your average Joe, straight arrow, never had any other questionable stories.

I talked with him on April 24, 2004, by phone. He has been retired from IBM since 1992 and currently runs a small construction firm with 20 employees, in northern Pennsylvania.

The local newspaper, the *Press and Sun-Bulletin*, Binghamton, NY, is re-running Gary's story this week on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his sighting. (Gary is not participating.)

Another slant on the story was added this week when a [1964] Newark Valley resident reported that, at the time of the original news story, he had checked out a Geiger counter from his place of employment (IBM) and had checked out Gary's site. The reading was "off the scale" for an area 400 feet square. - Gerry Curkendall 4/24/04

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# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



Vol I, No 3

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**Strategic planning session at NICAP-Connecticut Affiliate meeting in 1968, during Colorado UFO Project. Left, Thornton Page; Center, John Fuller; Right, James E. McDonald. Story on page 2. (Photo courtesy of George W. Earley)**

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## *Journal of UFO History*

A Publication of the  
Donald E. Keyhoe Archives

Editor: Richard H. Hall

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### EDITORIAL

The files at the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives are bulging with information about all aspects of UFO history. You, the subscriber, provide the financial lifeline that makes this publication possible.

Your comments are invited on any of the articles. Send "Letters to the editor" clearly marked as such, by e-mail or by regular mail. Please keep them brief and to the point and they will be considered for publication, especially if they add information or insight on a given story.

Longer commentaries also are invited for possible publication, up to about 400 words. All submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity. →

### Cover Photo

The NICAP Connecticut Affiliate (NICAP-CONN) was headed by George W. Earley, a United Aircraft Corporation employee and World War II Air Force operations officer of a B-26 squadron. There were four other Affiliates: in Los Angeles, Kansas City, Chicago, and New York City.

At the early 1968 NICAP-CONN meeting pictured here, John Fuller was briefing others about his forthcoming LOOK magazine article that would expose the memo by Robert J. Low of the University of Colorado Project that made the entire study seem to be a sham. Low's famous words "The trick would be..." came back to haunt him.

Seated left to right are Dr. Thornton Page, chairman of the astronomy department, Wesleyan University; David Morgan, physicist; John G. Fuller, journalist; Richard Hoagland, space sciences museum curator; and Dr. James E. McDonald, senior scientist, University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics.

You can also help by suggesting the kinds of information you would like to see included in future issues.

There is nothing an editor dislikes more than being greeted by a deafening silence after each issue is published. Maybe you could start by letting me know which articles you liked most, and/or which you liked least. □

## THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (NICAP): EARLY HISTORY

NICAP was the primary UFO organization in the late 1950s through 1970s. Because of being based in Washington, D.C., and having access to the national news media, NICAP began to supersede the Tucson-based Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) headed by Coral and Jim Lorenzen.

APRO had been formed in the early 1950s and was the most prominent UFO organization prior to NICAP. For a number of years Coral Lorenzen had cordial relations with Major Keyhoe as indicated in their correspondence (on file in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives). Their relations increasingly became strained as NICAP gained national attention.

When I arrived on the scene in June 1958, Major Keyhoe was fighting battles on several fronts. The most serious problem was lack of financial resources to hire staff. I worked as an occasional volunteer, but the office was run by Mrs. Rose Hackett Campbell and a female protegee of hers, Bess Clark.

Without going into the details and subtleties of the situation, I quickly learned that Mrs. Campbell had never met a "contactee" that she didn't believe, and also encourage to become a NICAP member. Noble spacemen were visiting us and imparting their wisdom to us, and in her mind NICAP existed to "spread the word."

It was a totally mystical and uncritical mindset that appalled me, and in a private meeting with Major



Early edition of the U.F.O. Investigator,  
NICAP membership publication.



Keyhoe (as I recall some time in June) I told him emphatically what I thought.

To my relief, he was already aware of the situation and troubled by it, but Mrs. Campbell--a skilled office manager and typist who was contributing the use of her own IBM proportional-spacing typewriter (a state-of-the-art machine at that time) and other personal assets--was all he had.

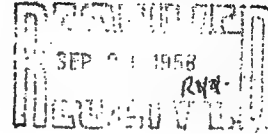
When I received a job offer from Air Force Times, Major Keyhoe quickly offered me a job at half-time pay, but it was "an offer I could not refuse."

The letter on the following page from M.K. Jessup adds some insight into this period. The letter was received and opened by me (as indicated by the initials RHH). □



P.O.Box # 12, Indianapolis 6, Ind.  
Tuesday sept 22, 1958

Major Donald E. "eyhoe,  
NICAP,  
1536 Connecticut Ave., NW.  
Washington 6, D.C.



Dear Don:

I haven't time to write a decent letter. I have been hearing through various channels that NICAP is not in good shape. Frankly, I think the UFO business is a lost cause as long as our public worships the Adamskis and the Mengers and will listen to nothing but the sensational lies they put out.

I still admire your attitude and your back-breaking efforts to do something tangible with the UFO problem. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to interest that segment of the public who would take a practical interest and do something if they could be convinced. I think we are in worse shape than ever at present because of the cultists etc. Well enough of that.

Rose Backett wrote me a letter this week, and then phoned me. She told me of resigning. She didn't give any reason but I know enough to know that she is disgruntled because the crackpot element is barred from NICAP. I am on your side of the fence, as you know, altho perhaps not quite so bluntly opposed to possibilities of ESP nature. Even if NICAP has to go down in failure I personally would prefer to keep it clean of the contact hoodlums who have practically destroyed all hope of a sensible approach to the problem in this decade---maybe in this generation.

My main point in writing is to say that Rose is driving out to Indiana to see me AND Pelley. That's no compliment to me, as I would believe anything Pelley said on a stack of Korans. However, she is coming and is all steamed up about the reprint issue of my CASE FOR THE UFO. This may or may not be her real reason. I know that she has always wanted to get me to be active in the inner working of NICAP because she has thought that I would embrace the so-called "subjective" simply because I do not take an open stand against it. I suspect that she is going to try to get me to start another organization, or to go into NICAP with a view toward changing the policy. Nothing doing on either count. I've had a belly full of the "Subjective". It worse than stinks.

If there is anything you want to tell me before she gets here (which may be by the end of the week) please write air mail (P.O.Box # 12, Indianapolis 6, Ind) or phone me (MElrose 5-8124 at home at night, or MElrose 4-2892 at office in daytime). There is much that I would like to discuss with you but which I do not want to put on paper. There are enough hints in this letter to indicate what I mean.

I might add one more thing. When you took over NICAP I reversed my position with regard to the organization and publically asked the ufologists to have patience and cooperate with you, after having been rather outspoken in a negative way. Since that time I have advised several that NICAP would immediately cease to function objectively if you lost control. Need I say more?

Best of everything to you. Hope your health is improving also that everything is well with your family. Good luck, Don---you earned it and you need it. Sorry I haven't the financial means to give you more support.

Regards,

M.K.Jessup

PRIVATE PROBES DISPUTE AF STAND

\*\*THE DENVER POST Mon., Nov. 28, 1966

3F

## Two Experts Conclude UFOs Come



DONALD D. KEYHOE  
"I changed my mind."

By BILL MYERS  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Despite Air Force attempts to debunk the existence of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), there are such things and they may be craft from outer space, two private UFO investigators said in Denver Sunday.

The investigators are Donald D. Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps aviator and director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), and Richard H. Hall, assistant NICAP director.

NICAP is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and both men, who have full time jobs with the committee, live in Washington suburbs.

They passed through Denver en route to Boulder, where they'll confer Monday and Tuesday with Dr. Edward U. Condon and members of his University of Colorado committee to study UFOs — or flying saucers.

Last month, the Air Force granted CU \$300,000 to conduct the probe independently of the Air Force's study group, "Project Blue Book."

Keyhoe says NICAP has from 11,000 to 12,000 members in all 50 states and about 30 foreign countries. The organization has some 250 top-notch professional advisers — aerospace experts, Federal Aviation Agency employees, astro-

nomers and scientists from all fields that might be involved in a UFO investigation, Keyhoe and Hall said.

Keyhoe said NICAP "collects UFO reports and evaluates them. We weed out the obvious mistakes and the crackpot reports. Then we get down to the hard-core reports from veteran pilots of the Air Force and airlines, missile trackers, scientists, engineers — competent, reliable witnesses" from all responsible civilian fields of work.

When NICAP gets a UFO report that appears legitimate, Hall and Keyhoe said, it appoints a small field investigation team from its list of technical experts and sends the team to investigate the report at the scene.

If the team's report indicates the UFO is genuine the headquarters staff of NICAP continues the investigation, calling on the opinions of the appropriate professional advisers.

"We look for a conventional explanation first," Hall said.

Keyhoe and Hall said that NICAP has received more than 10,000 UFO reports and that 1,500 to 2,000 of these have turned out to be "really substantial cases."

"Focusing on the hard-core cases," he said, "our tentative conclusion is that UFOs are something from outer space."

## From Outer Space

As NICAP director, Keyhoe agrees officially with this conclusion. But personally, his views are much stronger.

"I was skeptical when I first got into this work," he said, "but I changed my mind when I saw the massive evidence (of the existence of UFOs)."

Keyhoe is the author of the book, "Flying Saucers From Outer Space," which definitely states his opinion on the question, as the title reflects.

And, he adds, the Air Force once reached a secret conclusion that agreed with his. When reports on the conclusion leaked out, the Air Force denied them, he said.

"There is this sheer weight of evidence," he said. "It's not possible that all these reports are wrong, and they're certainly not frauds, considering the training and responsibility of many of the people who turned them in."

Keyhoe and Hall said Air Force policy always has been to debunk UFO sightings and even ridicule persons reporting them, including Air Force pilots.

Keyhoe said he's sure that the Air Force policy was headed down by the Central Intelligence Agency, which is worried at public reaction to an announcement that the earth is being observed by spacemen.

The CU study, the investigators said, should help solve the problem.



DENVER POST PHOTOS BY DONALD HOWELL  
RICHARD H. HALL  
"A major mystery."

Denver Post story, Nov. 28, 1966

The headline does not accurately reflect what we said, but rather what the reporter apparently expected or wanted us to say.

We were careful to point out that the ET hypothesis was only that, and not a conclusion, although many NICAP officials felt it was the most likely answer. Instead, we emphasized that hundreds of very significant reports were being wrongly "explained" or totally ignored by the Air Force. We were advocating a badly needed and

long overdue independent scientific investigation.

But reporters on daily papers are not well equipped to handle subtleties, and tend to like things in black and white. My education about the state of journalism in relation to controversial subjects like UFOs continued through these years, and eventually soured me on the entire process. — R.H.H.

[Future issues will address the failures of all major institutions to come to grips with UFO reports.] □

## IMPACT OF UFOs ON THE NATIONAL SPACE PROGRAM

James E. McDonald, Institute of Atmospheric Physics,  
The University of Arizona

(Abstract of talk to regional Sections, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1968-1969, AIAA visiting lecturer series.)<sup>1</sup>

Two years of intensive study of a wide variety of UFO reports and direct interviews with several hundred witnesses in select cases, convince me that the scientific community's past casual response to the UFO problem has been a serious error, one that must be quickly rectified. Although it is true that many reports of UFOs constitute cases of misidentification, and although a small percentage may be accounted for in other quite conventional manner, an impressively large number of other cases cannot be satisfactorily explained in terms of any ordinary hypotheses. Representative examples which I have personally checked will be cited, and key points in the past 20 years' official response to the UFO question will be noted.

Cases where multiple witnesses have reported relatively close-range sightings of objects that can scarcely be described in terms other than "machine-like" or "craft-like" demand that careful attention be given to the radical hypothesis that UFOs may be devices of extraterrestrial origin. That hypothesis is actually 20 years old but has generally been scoffed at by scientists and by official investigatory bodies. My own study leads me, however, to take that hypothesis quite seriously, despite its many obvious degrees of improbability. Alternative hypotheses will be discussed and their shortcomings pointed out.

A review of past scientific critique of the extraterrestrial hypothesis will be presented. Setting aside basically irrelevant or erroneous critique, or critique framed in ignorance of the cumulative evidence on UFO sightings, I shall try to show that the hard-core objection to the extraterrestrial hypothesis is, today, the objection that we cannot yet imagine any propulsion schemes that sensibly account for interstellar exploration and surveillance. Against that strong objection, I believe one can raise only the somewhat lame (yet conceivably quite correct) counterargument that we may not yet know all there is to be known about interstellar transport.

(Continued on next page)

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<sup>1</sup> This is a re-typed copy of McDonald's own talk summary as he produced and distributed it.. Any subscriber who would like to have an original copy of his one-page abstract, send a self-addressed and stamped envelope (or international postal coupon) to the editor.

## CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY, JUNE-JULY 1950

June 21, 1950: A UFO buzzed the control tower at Hamilton AFB, California, several times.

June 24, 1950: A cigar-shaped object paced a United Airlines plane for 20 minutes over the California desert. A Navy transport pilot and crew also saw the object.

June 30, 1950: A minister (former Air Force pilot) reported that a rotating, circular object hovered over the road. As he started to drive underneath it, the UFO took off with terrific acceleration.

July 1950: *Flying* magazine article titled "Flying Saucers -- Fact or Fiction?" summarized recent sightings by pilots.

July 1950: A Civil Aeronautics Agency (later FAA) flight engineer in Cincinnati, Ohio, reported seeing in early afternoon a "wingless, fuselage-shaped" object that maneuvered at high speed.

July 11, 1950: Two Navy aircraft near Osceola, Arkansas, in early evening saw a disc shaped like an inverted bowl cross their path, also detected on radar.

*(To be continued)*

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### McDonald AIAA, Continued

Our national space program was keynoted six years ago when the NAS Space Sciences Board asserted that *"the search for extraterrestrial life is, in the opinion of many, the most exciting, challenging, and profound issue, not only of this century but of the whole naturalistic movement that has characterized the history of western thought for 300 years. What is at stake is a chance to gain a new perspective on man's place in nature, a new level of discussion on the meaning and nature of life."* After two years of close scrutiny of the UFO evidence, it seems ironical to me that hundreds of UFO sightings seem explainable in no other terms than extraterrestrial surveillance, yet this body of reports continues to go almost unexamined by competent scientific bodies. I suggest, and have been suggesting to NASA, NSF, and other science-oriented agencies, that new and open-minded scrutiny of the UFO evidence is long overdue. In my view, the UFO problem may, in the near future, have a profound and positive impact on our national space program and on science in general. I believe that the public's assessment of scientific open-mindedness and scientific attitudes towards unconventional problems are very much at stake in the UFO problem, far more so than many scientists yet realize.

A significant step towards securing more adequate scientific scrutiny of the UFO question was taken when the House Committee on Science and Astronautics held a Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, July 29, 1968, highlights of which will be summarized. Copies of the proceedings can be secured from the Federal Scientific Clearinghouse, Springfield, Va. AIAA members are urged to secure those proceedings and to study them. □

## UFOs Around the World: Official Views & Newsnotes

The Military Attache of South Africa via the Washington, D.C., Embassy told a NICAP member (Apr. 22, 1963): "From time to time UFO reports are obtained and these are referred to Air Force headquarters where a statistical section makes an investigation and logs results. Our experience in the past has been that, with a few exceptions, all UFO sightings could be explained as having been caused by natural phenomena."

A letter dated Oct. 10, 1958, from the Embassy of Argentina was received by NICAP in response to an inquiry. The letter, signed by Assistant Air Attache Arnoldo C. Tesselhoff, informed us that Argentine Air Force officials were considering "...the creation of an agency similar to NICAP, with the same objectives...Once established, the Argentine agency would very much like to work in close scientific cooperation with your Committee."

Dr. Claude Gaudeau of the National Center of Scientific Research in France visited with Walter N. Webb, NICAP Adviser, in the Boston, Massachusetts, area on Apr. 25, 1968. He expressed an interest in starting a "comprehensive research study of UFO sightings, utilizing computers and medical examination of

certain witnesses."

A weekend conference of UFO investigation societies in Ballarat, Australia, in early 1965 led to the beginning of national organization. According to a story in the *Ballarat Courier*, Victoria, March 2, 1965, with the headline of "Aerial phenomena investigation," the conferees decided to form a Federal organization.

The new group would coordinate the activities of all local societies. Among the participants named in the story are S.J. Czyski, chairman of the Ballarat Astronomical Society; Peter Norris of Melbourne; A.P. Tomas of New South Wales; C. Jones of Western Australia; Mrs. S. Sutton of Moorabbin; and Mr. W.H. Sloane of Ballarat.

Forty years ago three scientists in Chile declared that UFOs are real. A Reuters News Agency story filed in Santiago, Chile, on Aug. 26, 1965, quoted Prof. Gabriel Alvial as saying, "There is scientific evidence that strange objects visit our planet.. It is lamentable that the governments have drawn a veil of secrecy around this."

Prof. Alvial announced that a university center would be set up in 1966 to study the phenomena.

Dr. Mitrovan Zverev at the Cerro Calan Observatory concurred that something beyond our present understanding is occurring. And Prof. Claudio Anguita summed up, "We are not alone in the universe."

The statements followed a rash of Southern Hemisphere UFO sightings, including several at Antarctic scientific stations during July. □

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## DIALOGUE WITH ➤

Francis L. Ridge

### REFLECTIONS ON 40 YEARS OF UFO RESEARCH

Fran Ridge established and served as chairman of one of the earliest NICAP investigation teams, or Subcommittees. This network of investigation units eventually grew into an invaluable asset for NICAP.

Since then his many contributions to UFO research rank him among the most experienced and well-informed people in the world about UFOs and related phenomena. I asked Fran to recall some of his experiences.

Hall: We have been colleagues now for something like 40 years, right? You formed the Indiana NICAP Subcommittee way back when. And of course we both have been active in other groups since then.

Ridge: Going on 44 years. After about 6 months of organization and planning the Subcommittee was authorized on November 17, 1960.

Hall: I remember that you lined up some good technical people, and scientific advisers. The Subcommittee did great work for about 10 years.

Ridge: I moved from Indiana to Illinois in 1971 and became a State Section Director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

Hall: What is your employment or profession, past or present?

Ridge: I was a manager for a large department store for 11 years until 1981, then went out on my own. I spent most of that time getting investors for patented items. The last 6 years I have gone back into hardware, something I really like and did right after high school for 4 years, and now with benefits while working with an old friend.



Francis L. Ridge

Hall: Before we get into your more recent activities, tell me about some of the Subcommittee's case investigations from the 1960s.

Ridge: The most interesting cases were those involved in the southern Illinois sightings in August of 1963. The primary case can be found on the NICAP web site at [www.nicap.org/austindir.htm](http://www.nicap.org/austindir.htm). What made this so special was being an E-M [electromagnetic effects] case and a close encounter, and one of the first good low-level car chases.



(Continued on next page)



## Ridge interview, continued

It was good enough that it prompted Air Force attention to the point that they sent a team from Wright-Patterson AFB headed by Colonel Robert Friend, and including none other than then-Captain Hector Quintanilla. The sighting was "explained away," but is still an unknown in my book.<sup>2</sup>

**Hall:** You established a UFO detection program called MADAR. What was that?

**Ridge:** Multiple Anomaly Detection and Automated Recording. With all the known listed E-M effects (102 cases listed by NICAP even then) I set up a detection station for anomalies of the type being reported. And it was no accident. Fate put me and everything else in the right place at the right time. One of my advisers gave me the idea on how to do it, and he had been working for "Project Saucer," the first Air Force code name before Project SIGN in 1947. His expertise was nuclear radiation detection and electromagnetism.

**Hall:** For quite a while you published a "UFO Intelligence Summary." I have copies of it in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives. What was that and how did it come about?

**Ridge:** Actually, it was important to do on its own merit, from the standpoint of

---

<sup>2</sup> Brief summaries of August 4, 7, and 9, 1963, sightings submitted to NICAP by Fran's Subcommittee appear on page 141 of *The UFO Evidence* (1964).]

## UFO Intelligence Newsletter

FRANCIS RIDGE  
Director & Editor

Produced by the UFO FILTER CENTER  
18121 834-9643 • 833-8176

518 Davis Dr. • Mt. Vernon, IN 47020  
Subscription: 12 Issues -- \$15.00

APRIL 1994

### PRESS RELEASE ON RIDGELL

The pull-out section in this month's issue is a press release that has been carefully constructed and planned for use in conjunction with the Ridgell inquiry. It states "Immediate Release". UFOlogists need to RETAIN this PR until they receive specific instructions on how, when, and where to use it. Stay tuned. If you have questions or suggestions, please call ASBP; (612) 834-9643. Things are developing very quickly.

### LAKE MICHIGAN SIGHTINGS, RV

On March 5th I got a call from David Sorne, of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago. He wanted to know what I had on some sightings involving radar in Michigan. At that time I had no information at all. Later on I got "some", but little info on these events.

Very briefly, there have been sightings of strange lights and objects going on for about two weeks in Michigan and possibly northern Indiana. Information is sketchy at this time.

the new computer age. It was a changing, constantly updated database of UFO sightings all over the country and told all of us what was going on and if one UFO sighting was related to others in time.

**Hall:** I see that it was called the "UFO Intelligence Newsletter" and part of it was a page or more of computer-generated "UFO Intelligence Summary." And you were operating the UFO Filter Center.

**Ridge:** With the MADAR system this data was extremely important so that the UFO Filter Center could correlate UFO sightings with detections of anomalous instrumental data. It's a long story but we did correlate several incidents, and this is all documented in my book and also on the NICAP web site.

**Hall:** Tell us about your regional UFO report. Are copies still available?

**Ridge:** Only a handful of hard copies of the 500 I had printed, but I am working on getting the book on CD.

**Hall:** Now we come to my favorite - the NICAP web site. There is a colorful

*(Continued on next page)*

### Ridge interview, continued

history of how that came to be. Would you please describe that?

Ridge: Really strange. I had spent so many years on the UFO subject that I wanted to do something else.

Hall: I guess we all have experienced "burn-out" at some point.

Ridge: What started me off on a new track was that I had accidentally observed, with a 4-1/2 inch f/8 telescope, some "fastwalkers," objects apparently very far out in space between here and the Moon. In the late 1970s I had bought a black and white surveillance camera and found that it worked perfectly on the scope, except that the mounting and controls were beyond my means. But in 1995 I got some investors and did it, and created the Lunascan Project, which still exists.

Hall: But it's still related to UFOs in a way.

Ridge: I swore I was out of the UFO business, except to try to catch "them" with their pants down while between here and the Moon. I created the web site and it was so successful I thought, why don't we commemorate all the great work that NICAP has done?

Hall: I remember that you -- we -- also got some motivation from a pretender who had nothing to do with NICAP at all, but put up a site to exploit

NICAP's reputation.

Ridge: Yes, we wanted to protect NICAP's good name. So I started on it once I got the okay [from the Center for UFO Studies which archives the NICAP sighting files] in 1997. It was like "eating an elephant," which I had learned to do several times before. And like the Lunascan Project, it grew and grew into the massive site it is today.

Hall: Well, the NICAP site is my absolute favorite of all UFO web sites, but then I have a somewhat selfish reason for that. It is a rich goldmine of UFO sighting information and related history that I always recommend to anyone seeking serious, factual information.

Ridge: And, instead of the old and boring civilian reports most people know about, it consists of the very best military and airline cases ever reported. And we have uncovered important new information to support already good cases such as Trindade Island [the January 1958 Brazilian photo case showing a Saturn-shaped object], and uncovered damning information on former supposedly explained cases such as Fort Monmouth [September 1951 Air Force pilots' pursuit of a silvery disc-shaped UFO].

Hall: so you were back in the UFO business despite everything.

*(Continued on next page)*

### Ridge interview, continued

Ridge: Then when I got even more involved than I had ever planned to do ~~this late in my life~~, I set up the Nuclear Connection Project and found (with the help of others, and in particular Larry Hatch) more than 200 cases of UFOs associated with nuclear weapons or sites. One case that turned out to have a major connection involved a UFO over a control tower in New Mexico. This took place over a weapons storage area and over a B-58 Hustler bomber waiting to qualify for a nuclear weapons delivery exercise.

Hall: So instead of getting away from UFOs for a change, you ended up with the NICAP web site, the Nuclear Connection Project (NCP), and the Lunascan Project.

Ridge: Yes, and I was supposed to be getting out of the UFO business! Very ironic. The more I tried to get out, the deeper in I got. The NCP is still active, but we have logged most of the good cases, such as the ones involving missile sites. The Lunascan Project is alive, but not doing any scanning here. We have people all over the world who have better equipment and better seeing conditions, so we are watching and waiting. In the meantime, we are going over a lot of NASA pictures and also getting ready for the live images from the Trailblazer this winter [TransOrbital corporation commercial lunar mission]. One of these days we will get something great, but just

getting better data from private sources is very exciting work.

Hall: What do you do when you are not working on UFOs or lunar scans? Any other hobbies or activities?

Ridge: Something I started in the summer of 2003. I made a 1950s room with a recording studio for me and my daughter who sings country music. It's a great way to relax after getting so serious with UFOs for over 40 years.

Hall: What is your ultimate thinking about UFOs?

Ridge: I'm convinced that something very big and potentially important is going on, and we are a part of it whether we like it or not. I could never just say, to heck with it, but I do things to get my mind off it at times. I am very glad I met you, Dick, and very proud to be a former member of the best UFO organization that ever existed. We have made history, and it will be even more important as the years go by.

See [www.nicap.org](http://www.nicap.org)

Francis L. Ridge  
618 Davis Avenue  
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

Your purchase of items on the web site and your donations will support this important work.

# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



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September-October 2004



Fund for UFO Research founders meeting in College Park, Maryland, in 1979  
Left to right: Bruce Maccabee, Tom Deuley, Fanny Phillips, Richard Hall, Craig  
Phillips. (Story on page 2.)

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### EDITORIAL

The study of UFO history may be about to take a giant step forward, what with the advent of a major ABC-TV network, Peter Jennings Productions two-hour prime-time special on ET life and UFOs currently in production.

Many of the veteran scientifically oriented UFO researchers are assisting the producers with research, focused on early UFO history and credible sightings by competent and reputable witnesses that remain unexplained. A number of us have been interviewed for the program.

Our only reservation is having had experience with many such programs in the past that did not live up to the initial promise. In this case, so far, all signs are very positive. →

### Cover Photo

The Fund for UFO Research, organized in 1979, has completed a quarter of a century of efforts to help finance quality research and public education.

This photo shows the participants in an early meeting held in College Park, Maryland. Tom Deuley, a now-retired Navy officer who served on nuclear submarines, and Richard Hall originally conceived the idea for the Fund.

The organizing meetings were held in the College Park offices of the International Fortean Organization (INFO), for which Hall was an editor of the *INFO Journal*. He is here wearing a Charles Fort T-shirt

Chairmen of the Fund for UFO Research successively have been Navy physicist Bruce Maccabee, writer-editor Richard Hall, and aerospace author Don Berliner (not shown here).

Fanny Phillips (recently deceased) was a biological technician, artist, and former NICAP staff member. Craig Phillips is a distinguished biologist and author, and former director of the National Aquarium in Washington, D.C.

See the Fund for UFO Research web site at [www.fufor.com](http://www.fufor.com).

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The researchers have given every indication of making a serious effort to seek out credible witnesses to the most impressive cases.

As initially outlined to us, the research phase will continue through early 2005. Allowing for final editing and program scheduling, we might expect to see the program aired next spring or summer. □ E-mail: [dh12@erols.com](mailto:dh12@erols.com)

## DAVE GARROWAY SHOW NBC-TV UFO DISCUSSION: TACKER VS. KEYHOE, DECEMBER 5, 1960

A brisk exchange of views between Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.), Director of NICAP, and Lt. Colonel Lawrence J. Tacker, USAF, Air Force spokesman on UFOs, occurred on the Dave Garroway Show, Dec. 5, 1960.

Garroway first interviewed Tacker, asking whether he believed that "flying saucers" exist. Tacker replied that it was a matter of semantics, but that the Air Force had been able to explain all the sightings "in most instances" as "conventional objects seen under extenuating circumstances," such as unusual light conditions or fog.

Keyhoe was then asked the same question. He replied: "Yes, I do...I believe that flying objects under intelligent control exist."

Discussion then turned to Tacker's new book *Flying Saucers and the U.S. Air Force* (Van Nostrand, NJ, 1960).

Garroway: This book, Col. Tacker, occupied me over much of the weekend. It was a very challenging book to read. I have read several of Major Keyhoe's books too. The Air Force figures, I believe, show that there have been 6,523 reported sightings over the past 13 years. What percentage of these, according to Air Force standards, remain unexplained?

Tacker: Well, I'd have to go back to the early days and admit at the very beginning when this was a new subject in, say, 1947...in 1950 the "unknowns" or unidentified cases ran as high as 20%.

By 1953 they were down to 9%, and now they run somewhere between 2 and 3%.

Garroway: Two and three percent?

Tacker: Yes, sir.

Garroway: Major Keyhoe, do you agree with that?

Keyhoe: No, I don't, because the Air Force has issued a statement -- in fact it is repeated in the Colonel's book here without any qualifications -- that the Air Force has explained all but about



2% of the totals. I have here a letter signed by an official in the Air Force who says that up to the end of 1959 there were 565 cases unexplained, a total of 9.4%. And, incidentally, the official was Col. Lawrence J. Tacker.

Tacker: That's right. That's what I just said.

Keyhoe: I know, but you keep putting out this statement that the Air Force has explained all but so and so of the total reported, and it doesn't qualify. It gives people the impression that you've only got a dribble left of those cases.

Garroway: What about that, Colonel?

Tacker: Well, I think I stated it correctly when you initially asked me, Dave. I said in the early days they probably ran higher, and the investigating techniques were not as good, and it was a new subject. This is where the science

(Continued on next page)



## Dave Garroway Show, continued



Donald E. Keyhoe,  
Maj, USMC (Ret.)

fiction type of thing that Major Keyhoe writes got started.

Garroway: May I read a paragraph from the book here?

"Many sightings by qualified and reliable witnesses have been

reported. However, each incident seems to have an unsatisfactory fact associated with it, such as shortness of time under observation." If you saw Marilyn Monroe walking by, and you saw her for one second, would that be adequate?

Tacker: I would probably recognize her.

Garroway: That's what I mean. "Inaccurate estimates of distance from the observer..." How is it known that they are inaccurate?

Tacker: Generally just by a simple mathematical computation at the [Air] Technical Intelligence Center.

Garroway: How do they know what the distance is?

Tacker: Well, just based upon the size of the object given, they can determine.

Garroway: But the object isn't given.

Tacker: It generally is, in the report. The object and the size--the approximate size.

Garroway: If we don't know what the object is, how can we give the size?

Tacker: Well, they give the size as it appeared in the sighting.

Garroway: Oh, the angular size?

Tacker: Yes, sir.

Garroway: That doesn't tell you anything about the distance, does it?

Tacker: Oh, they can work out the distance from that, certainly.

Garroway: One sighting of an angular object like a star or planet, or anything?

Tacker: Yes, sir.

*[The conversation went on in a similar vein about photographs as evidence and eyewitness testimony. After a station break, Garroway questioned Major Keyhoe.]*

Garroway: Major, you've maintained for some years now, I believe, that the Air Force is, according to you, deliberately misinforming the public on this subject. How do you support such a serious charge?

Keyhoe: We sent a confidential report [confidential to Members of Congress] in July and since then, and this states a digest of the evidence. [Keyhoe then disputed Tacker's contention that all Congressmen they had talked with were satisfied with the Air Force answers by citing letters from Congressmen that indicated otherwise.] Rep. Joseph Karth said in executive session they tried to get it [information about unexplained objects] from the Air Force and the Air Force took refuge in security and said this was involved with the nation's safety.

Tacker: That's absolutely erroneous. We've never taken refuge in security.

Keyhoe: Are you calling Representative Karth a liar? Are you calling...?

Tacker: Are you calling General White a liar? Did you read the Foreword to the book?

Keyhoe: Colonel, if I were in your...

Tacker: Have you called Mr. Horner

*(Continued on next page)*

## Dave Garroway Show, continued

[Secretary of the Air Force] a liar? They made the statements...

Keyhoe: I don't use the word "liar" if I can...

Tacker: You made it; you were the one who brought it up.

Keyhoe: Now, wait a minute. You're trying to keep me from reading the rest of these letters.

Tacker: I'm not trying to keep you from doing it.

Keyhoe: We have letters here from a number of Congressmen who say they are completely and seriously concerned over the secrecy. This report they accepted as proof that these objects are real...

Tacker: Worst bunch of drivel I ever read, that report. [Garroway inserted a question to clarify a point. Then Keyhoe continued.]

Keyhoe: This "drivel" you talked about was approved by the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, Vice-Admiral Hillenkoetter; [Rear] Admiral Knowles; Colonel Emerson, U.S. Army Reserve; Major [Dewey] Fournet, former monitor of your [Air Force UFO] project, and about 200 scientists, engineers, and others, none of whom could be called crackpot types. Now, in here these people say that they are concerned with it for two reasons: There is a danger involved in the present Air Force policy. You've had hundreds...

Tacker: Let me interrupt again to say there is no such policy. [Several more exchanges were made about secrecy and Air Force policy on UFOs.]

Keyhoe: Well, colonel, if you are going to talk me down and not allow me to present evidence--I have a statement here by which you brush off the [July 1952] Washington sightings as a

temperature inversion.

Tacker: As a temperature inversion, that's exactly right.

Keyhoe: All right. You stated in there that these things were not picked up on radar at Andrews Air Force Base.

Tacker: I did not state that.

Keyhoe: Oh, yes you did.

Tacker: They were picked up...

Keyhoe: I beg your pardon...

Tacker: Oh, at Andrews Air Force Base. Oh, that's right. They were on the radar at National Airport.

Keyhoe: I have here a signed report by an Air Force weather observer, a radar expert who was in the tower. It describes picking up these blips...

Tacker: We don't consider those people experts. I have 4,000 hours on radar scopes.

Keyhoe: That's all right. A lot of people are expert on radar because that's their livelihood. They guide airliners...

Tacker: Right.

Keyhoe: ...into the airport. If they're no good--if your air defense people are no good on radar, how are they going to tell us about Soviet bombers? Let me get to this. This person says they were picked up on radar--they had a group of them that came in in formation and split up, operated at speeds of over 900 miles an hour. Now you deny, flatly...

Tacker: Apparently, right.

Keyhoe: At Washington Airport the experts on radar tracked these things at speeds up to 7,200 miles per hour.

Tacker: A radar operator is not an expert, Major Keyhoe.

[All talking at once. After a break Garroway questioned Tacker about the Air Force position and policies on UFOs. Following are excerpts of some of the sharp exchanges between Tacker and Keyhoe.]

(Continued on next page)

### Dave Garroway Show, continued

Tacker: I can prove that we haven't withheld information.

Keyhoe: You can't prove it because we have cases you have withheld. If you have...

Tacker: What do you mean *you* have cases that we have withheld?

Keyhoe: I'm talking about NICAP.

Tacker: What is NICAP? A UFO hobby group!

Keyhoe: Oh no, it is not! Are you saying that Hillenkoetter--we've got high Air Force officers: Colonel Joseph Bryan, Air Force Reserve; Colonel McAshan, Air Force Reserve...

Tacker: You're impressing me immensely, major.

Keyhoe: I'm not trying to impress you. As a matter of fact, if you would keep your temper we might get down to facts here.

Tacker: I have no temper here.

#

Tacker: I felt the book had to be written because the Air Force was being set upon by Major Keyhoe, by NICAP, by the other UFO hobby groups who believe...

Keyhoe: We're not a "hobby group."

Tacker: ...who believe in space ships as an act of pure faith....because there are these senseless accusations against the Air Force....I think it's ridiculous.

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[Keyhoe cited the August 1960 Red Bluff, California, case which the Air Force explained as the planet Mars and the star Aldebaran. NICAP astronomy advisers noted that these two bodies were well below the horizon at the time.]

Tacker: Don't you understand what happened?

Keyhoe: I understand perfectly. You had to cover it up...

Tacker: There was a temperature inversion for six days. Do you know what

a temperature inversion is?

Keyhoe: I know exactly what it is.

Tacker: It causes refraction and a mirage above the horizon.

Garroway: How much refraction?

Keyhoe: Not for three hours--it doesn't pick up a star three hours below...

Tacker: Mars was just below the horizon. I'm not going to argue with you. I'm giving you what our scientific community told me, and that's that.

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Garroway: We have to take a station break here. No, we have to leave here. I don't know where we are. [Laughter.]

□

### 4 Objects Reported Flying 3,600 M.P.H.

WASHINGTON, July 11 (UP)

—A Government radar set tracked four unidentified flying objects traveling up to 3,600 miles an hour over California last spring, a private research organization said today.

The incident was reported to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena by Civil Aeronautics Administration control tower operators in the Los Angeles area. The committee disclosed its report in the first issue of its monthly magazine.

The magazine said the tower operators reported that an object appeared on the tower radarscope on March 23. In the next few minutes, it said, three more objects were tracked at speeds estimated at nearly 3,600 M. P. M.

The committee was formed several months ago to investigate "flying saucer" reports.

New York Times, July 12, 1957

## CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY, AUGUST 1950-FEBRUARY 1951

Aug. 15, 1950: Nick Mariana in Great Falls, Montana, took movie film of two luminous objects flying at high speed. The film was analyzed by the Air Force and later by outside scientists.<sup>1</sup>

Oct. 3, 1950: A disc wobbling on its axis was observed by geochemist J.D. Lauder milk to pass behind a mountain peak, visible from Pomona, California. He computed its minimum speed to be 720 mph.

Oct. 12, 1950: The Atomic Energy Commission Security Service requested that anyone seeing a "flying saucer" near one of their plants inform them about it on a questionnaire specially prepared for that purpose.

Nov. 27, 1950: Weather Bureau, Civil Aeronautics Administration, and airline personnel in Huron, South Dakota, in the early morning saw a luminous object that changed colors from red to white to green as it darted around the sky.

Nov. 27, 1950: A commercial pilot and flight instructor in Evansville, Wisconsin, reported seeing six elliptical objects

flying in a loose echelon formation at an estimated speed of about 500 mph if at the estimated altitude of about 10,000 feet.

Dec. 27, 1950: A TransWorld Airlines pilot flying in the vicinity of Bradford, Illinois, reported seeing a luminous object that made violent and erratic maneuvers.

Jan. 16, 1951: General Mills Corporation technical personnel while tracking a Skyhook balloon near Artesia, New Mexico, saw two disc-shaped objects rapidly approach the balloon, tip on edge, circle the balloon, then speed off over the horizon.

Jan. 20, 1951: The crew of a Mid-Continent Airlines plane and control tower operators at Sioux City, Iowa, saw a dark cigar-shaped object with white and red body lights that buzzed the airplane. The object reversed direction and climbed away out of sight.

Feb. 14, 1951: Two Air Force pilots watching a large balloon in the vicinity of Alamogordo, New Mexico, saw a flashing white disc hovering at high altitude.

February: In LOOK Magazine, Dr. Urner Liddel, a Navy scientist, stated: "There is not a single reliable report of an observation [UFO] which is not attributable to the cosmic balloons [plastic 'Skyhook' research balloons]."

(To be continued.)

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<sup>1</sup> See Jerome Clark, "Montana Film" in *The Emergence of a Phenomenon UFOs from the Beginning through 1959*, *UFO Encyclopedia*, pp. 251-54; Robert M.L. Baker, Jr., *Photogrammetric Analysis of the "Montana" Film Tracking Two UFOs*, Douglas Aircraft Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., 1956.

## HISTORICAL NEWS & NOTES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Chaepo Cook, Director of the Central Meteorological Office, Republic of Korea, in a letter dated July 7, 1967, to Julian Hennessey stated "We have considered establishing [a] National Committee on the UFO."

An Associated Press newswire story from Prague published Feb. 20, 1969, reported that Czechoslovakia had established an institute to gather reports and data on unidentified flying objects.

A Church of England vicar in 1961 asked his parishioners to inform him of any "flying saucer" sightings. The Rev. F. Vere Hodges of Kingswood, Surrey, said: "I believe in these things, and although I have never seen one myself, I feel it is a good thing to hear of them and accustom ourselves to the idea of visitors from space." (London *Sunday Express*, Aug. 20, 1961)

In reply to a letter from a NICAP member, the Military Attache of the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., on June 7, 1963, said that Germany could not supply information about UFOs and had no official policy about them. Maj. Artur W. Heyer added: "I am sorry to give you this reply and I think your request deals with a matter which has not yet been exploited sufficiently."

In a letter addressed to NICAP on Oct. 29, 1958, the Air Attache of the Norwegian Embassy, Washington, D.C., stated that in Norway the Air Force's UFO material "is mainly of security graded nature and cannot be put to the disposal of NICAP."

## GARY WILCOX FOLLOW-UP: PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION

Vol. 1, No. 2, contained a 40th anniversary follow-up on the Apr. 24, 1964, sighting by farmer Gary Wilcox of an object that landed on his farm in New York State and his close encounter with two small humanoid beings. This happened on the same day as the sighting by Lonnie Zamora in Socorro, N.M., of a landed object with two small humanoid beings.

Dr. Berthold Schwarz, a psychiatrist, conducted extensive interviews with Wilcox, his family, and friends. In a 1969 letter to Ted Bloecher, NICAP staff member, he said:

Yes, I take the Gary Wilcox experience seriously and this opinion is based on my first-hand examinations of Gary and his wife and also direct and/or telephonic interviews of his mother, two brothers, Miss Baldwin, various neighbors, and Sheriff Taylor

Wilcox told his mother about his experience one hour after it happened, and before his father read (and several days later told his son) of the Zamora incident

Gary Wilcox is more like Calvin Coolidge than Hubert Humphrey in his personality. Unfortunately (or fortunately!) he is not one who expands on his experience, etc. He was and is primarily interested in having his privacy maintained and "not being bothered"

### COLORADO UFO PROJECT SCIENTIST DIES

Dr. Roy F. Craig, an investigator for the Air Force-sponsored University of Colorado UFO study in the 1960s died Mar. 18, 2004. He was 79. Craig, a chemist by training, contributed three chapters to the 1969 Condon Report that debunked UFO sightings as unworthy of continued study

## DIALOGUE WITH ►

**Ted Bloecher**

### REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY YEARS

Ted Bloecher was one of the founders of Civilian Saucer Intelligence in New York during the 1950s. Between stints as a stage actor and singer, he conducted some pioneering UFO research on the 1947 UFO sighting wave, and also served as a valued staff member of NICAP.



Ted Bloecher standing left, with Isabel Davis, Peter Tomikawa, and seated, Jennie Zeidman and J. Allen Hynek, at the 1979 San Francisco MUFON UFO Symposium

Along with David Webb he compiled the "Humanoid Catalog" of all known UFO occupant reports during the 1970s, among many other major contributions to the field. We talked about the ups and downs and personal aspects of UFO research.

Hall: What is your current level of interest in the UFO subject?

Bloecher: I am still moderately interested in what is happening, constructively, in UFO research and investigation, although I suspect it is in a stalemate situation; but since I am no longer actively participating in the process, my information sources about recent developments are somewhat limited.

Hall: When and under what circumstances did you drop out of UFO research?

Bloecher: I "dropped out" of active research and investigation in the early-to mid-eighties (1984, to be precise). For one thing, I had become involved in investigation and hypnotic regression of a number of abductees, along with Budd Hopkins and psychologist Aphrodite Clamar, and increasingly found myself ill-equipped to deal with the degree of high-strangeness of these complicated cases.

Hall: Were you bothered by the abduction reports?

Bloecher: It troubled me deeply that such bizarre events could be going on at such apparently prodigious levels, and still remain so invisible to the general public. I simply felt that these reports

*(Continued on next page)*



### **Bloecher Interview, continued**

required someone more professionally skilled than myself to deal with them. Also, by 1984, I was running out of steam. I first became directly involved with the subject in 1954 with CSI of New York, and it was apparent to me that after 30 years there was still little practical evidence to show for all the time and effort invested in the subject. I felt that there was little else I could contribute at that point.

Hall: Do you have any regrets about leaving the field?

Bloecher: I have no regrets at all about my "retirement" from active research -- I felt that I had earned the right to step down.

Hall: Tell us how CSI started and how you got involved.

Bloecher: Early in 1954 I was contacted by Bronx housewife Marilyn Feifer and UFO researcher Elliot Rockmore, from Brooklyn, about creating a UFO research and investigative group in New York. I subscribed to Rockmore's publication, that reprinted reports of UFO sightings from various newspapers, which was how I came to be contacted. After a series of meetings between the three of us, in February, and then in March, with the assistance of a few other active participants, we were able to establish Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York.

Hall: What sorts of things did CSI do at the beginning?

Bloecher: We began with small weekly meetings, and during the next several months these grew into open public lectures, by such people as Ivan

Sanderson and George Adamski. In the process, we managed to activate professional people like John DuBarry (an associate editor at TRUE Magazine, who earlier was responsible for publishing Donald Keyhoe's articles on "Flying Saucers"); and, most notably, Isabel Davis was recruited for active duty in CSI at the Adamski meeting in April of 1954, becoming an integral part of CSI after that.

Hall: Recruiting Isabel was a major accomplishment!

Bloecher: We also had the misfortune of drawing in a large number of loonies in that first year, which was probably one of the reasons why Elliot Rockmore dropped out; we lost Marilyn by the end of that first year, also, when she remarried, so Isabel Davis and myself, with the help of a small group of dedicated supporters, including Lex Mebane, as well as John DuBarry and Ivan Sanderson, continued to press on early into 1955 with our meetings and research.

Hall: Will you share a few thoughts about Isabel and Lex?

Bloecher: Well, enough cannot be said about the two of them. We had our differences, on occasion, but we seemed to work together very well. It was an interesting trio of people, one a professional chemist (Lex), and the other an editor (Isabel). I had no particular skills that I could contribute (my professional goal was the theatre), but I suppose I provided a good deal of the energy involved in our activities. Once the three of us started working together, it wasn't long before we began producing the *CSI Newsletter*.

*(Continued on next page)*

### Bloecher interview, continued

We also made summaries of our public meetings and distributed them to our growing membership.

Hall: Some of those newsletters and documents have survived and are preserved in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives. The *Newsletter* is extremely well written.

Bloecher: I have to confess that I learned how to write as a result of my relationship with Isabel Davis and Lex Mebane, both of them very skilled and articulate writers.

Hall: When did your stage career become active?

Bloecher: That began happening toward the end of the 1950s, when I was able to do several off-Broadway shows and summer stock in the area around New York. But then I began to do major touring productions, like *My Fair Lady* (1961-1962), and in the sixties, I was able to do three or four Broadway shows, as well as touring productions, and this certainly cut down on many activities with CSI.

Hall: How long did CSI continue in operation?

Bloecher: The effectiveness of CSI as a productive organization was, by and large, winding down by the late fifties, or early sixties. By the mid-sixties, Isabel had moved on to NICAP, Lex had suffered some major health problems, and I continued with my theatre career, until the spring of 1968 when, in between shows, I joined the NICAP staff as well. I wrote *Report on the UFO Wave*

of 1947 in Washington D.C. during the summer of 1967, after closing there with a touring production of *Half a Sixpence*. James E. McDonald was an instrumental factor in my writing of that report; in fact, he contributed the Introduction to it.

Hall: What became of the CSI files?

Bloecher: Sometime in late 1966 or early 1967, after Isabel had already moved to Washington, D.C., and had leased her New York apartment to another person, we decided that the CSI files should be



Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, 1979

transferred to NICAP and assimilated into the NICAP case files. I have a vague recollection of your being involved in that transfer -- didn't you rent a truck for the occasion?

Hall: That's possible, but my memory for 35-plus years ago is spotty unless I have written records to refresh my memory. I know we were delighted to receive the files.

Hall: What was it like working at NICAP?

Bloecher: Well, it was absolutely fascinating, as well as a bit frustrating, at times. For me it lasted a matter of  
(Continued on next page)

### Bloecher Interview, continued

about 15 or 16 months, from May of 1968 to the end of July 1969, when things began to come apart at NICAP. About a week after receiving my notice, a touring company of *Oliver!* passed through Shady Grove, outside of Washington, and they needed a tenor. I had already done the show both on Broadway and on tour, and had worked with the musical director before, so I was a shoo-in for the replacement, and so I made my way back to the New York area with it, by way of Painter's Mill Theatre, outside Baltimore, during August of that year. But that's a whole different story, although the irony of my rescue was certainly unusual.

Hall: What projects did you work on at NICAP?

Bloecher: One of the most interesting projects was the UFO Occupant Study, in which we selected a panel of scientists and professional people to review a carefully chosen selection of a half dozen CEIII reports. We had a difficult time convincing Major Keyhoe to go along with this project.

Hall: He was extremely cautious about discussing humanoid sightings publicly.

Bloecher: When he heard that we were already planning the study, he was upset at first. Eventually, however, he agreed to the project.

Hall: What other projects were you involved with at NICAP?

Bloecher: There were a couple of important publications we managed to produce while I was on NICAP's staff, including the *Project Grudge and Blue*

*Book Reports 1-12* reprint. We worked very hard to make those historical documents available publicly [June 1968]. Ann Druffel recounts this publication in her book, *Firestorm* [pp. 234, 366]. Another one that I was privileged to work on was *UFOs: A New Look*. And NICAP's classification system for UFO sightings was another important project. I was fortunate to have played a role in all of these activities.

Hall: What would it take for us to finally figure out what it all means? Do you think that will happen some day?

Bloecher: I tend to believe, although I could be wrong, that the U.S. Government has collected reasonably unambiguous evidence over the past half century of the existence and reality of UFOs, whatever they may be, in our atmosphere and on our land. Until they finally come forward with the truth about what it is they have learned, I suspect that the knowledge of whatever is behind the UFO phenomenon will remain as puzzling and indecisive as it was forty years ago. It doesn't seem likely to me, in any case, that whatever is responsible for the appearance of this phenomenon is about to reveal its secrets to us any time soon -- at least not in my lifetime.

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# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



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Artist's concept of Armor of the Future, 1959. Copy of Painting at the Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky (U.S. Army Photograph).

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### EDITORIAL

This issue features an interview with highly regarded UFO researcher Barry Greenwood, co-author with Lawrence Fawcett of the important book *Clear Intent: The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience* (Prentice-Hall, 1984).

Since 1998 Barry has published the *UFO Historical Review* (UHR) newsletter but time constraints are causing him to suspend publication until his daily workload is reduced, possibly after retirement.

Back issues of UHR may be found on the web site of the Computer UFO Network ([www.cufon.org](http://www.cufon.org)), which is an excellent depository of historical UFO documents and general information. □

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### Congressional Interest in UFOs

It is not surprising that the U.S. Congress currently shows no interest in the UFO phenomenon. Among the many reasons are the "tabloid" image of the subject, the lack of scientific study of good UFO cases, and the dearth of timely news reporting.

But Congress in the past did show considerable interest, and political household names like Lyndon Johnson and Gerald Ford were among those paying attention. On some occasions in the 1950s and 1960s, references to UFOs were inserted in the *Congressional Record* by individual members.

Aside from passing remarks and brief discussions during earlier Congressional hearings, the House Armed Services Committee convened the first formal hearing on UFOs on April 5, 1966, as a direct response to the highly publicized UFO sighting wave then in progress and widespread journalistic criticism of the Air Force UFO project.

The April 1966 hearings led to the establishment later that year of the University of Colorado UFO Project, sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, with Dr. Edward U. Condon in charge. That study in turn proved to be so controversial that, before the project had completed its work, another "hearing" was held.

On July 29, 1968, the House Science and Astronautics Committee held what they politely called a "symposium" at which a half a dozen scientists testified and several more submitted statements for the record. The ground rules were that the Colorado Project should not be discussed or criticized directly because they had not yet completed their work.

In conjunction with the University of Colorado UFO study, Lynn Catoe at the  
(Continued on next page)

## Congressional Interest, continued

Library of Congress compiled a sizeable annotated bibliography on the subject in 1969.

In 1976 Marcia Smith, a specialist in aerospace at Congressional Research Service, prepared a comprehensive report entitled *The UFO Enigma*. It was revised and updated by George D. Havas in 1983 as Report No. 83-205 SPR, 143 pages. This report contains sections on types of sightings, witness credibility, pre-1947 reports, history of Air Force UFO investigations, and international perspectives, with appendices including selected case summaries.

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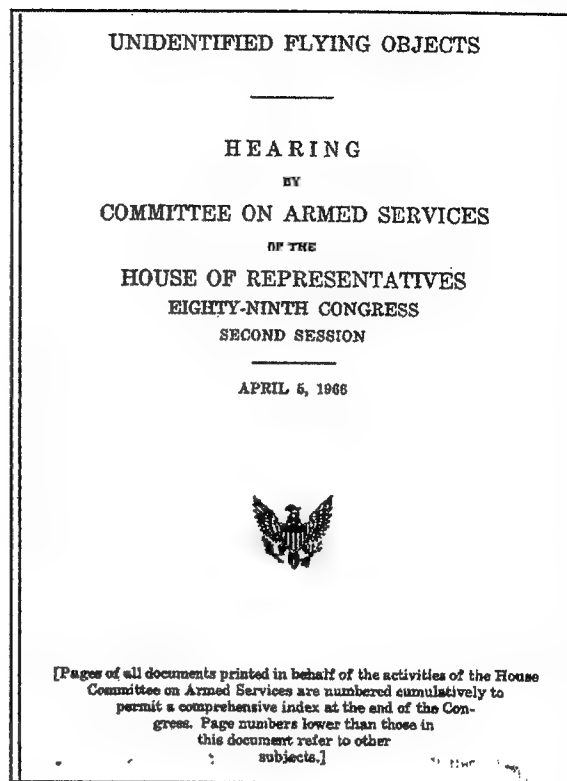
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## USAF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SAW UFO FORMATION IN 1947

A staff intelligence officer at Rapid City AFB, South Dakota (later named Ellsworth AFB) in mid-August of 1947 saw a formation of about 12 luminous, elliptical objects flying in formation. He was a major in charge of all air crew interrogations for the 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing.

Sighted soon after dark, the objects were "flying a tight diamond shaped formation stacked down from the lead." They were in a shallow descent, then leveled off, made a large radius turn to the right and started climbing away. As they began climbing, "they appeared to accelerate rapidly." They "seemed to have a yellow white luminous glow." (Air Technical Intelligence interrogation report, 5 July 1948, formerly classified SECRET.)



## SIGHTINGS & EDITORIALS LED TO AIR FORCE SHAKE-UP, COLORADO STUDY

Among the immediate causes of the shake-up of Project Blue Book were highly publicized sightings in Gerald Ford's home state of Michigan during March, and the Apr. 17, 1966, Ravenna, Ohio, close encounter incident. When deputy sheriffs confronted a brightly glowing craft-like object, then pursued it into Pennsylvania, the Air Force blamed the sighting on the Planet Venus. (See page 6.)

Daily newspapers all over the country had begun criticizing the Air Force editorially, some of them poking fun. The *Houston Post* (March 31) quoted a scientist: "Some of the explanations are now getting as interesting as the sightings." The *Richmond News-Leader* (March 23) said, "Unfortunately. The Air Force continues its policy of obfuscation."

On March 27 nationally syndicated columnist Roscoe Drummond called for establishment of either a presidential or a congressional panel to "appraise and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

Philadelphia Enquirer, Mar. 27, 1966

Roscoe Drummond

### Time to Get Facts On 'Flying Saucers'

WASHINGTON  
YOU can't dismiss the possibility that some of the unidentified flying objects—these "flying saucers"—which so many people have sighted in so many different places—are real, not imaginary.  
There are, of course, UFO buffs who seem to want to

## GERALD FORD NEWS RELEASE

Congressman Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader, in April 1966 issued the following News Release:

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P M , APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER  
GERALD R FORD, R-MICHIGAN

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's [sic], the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

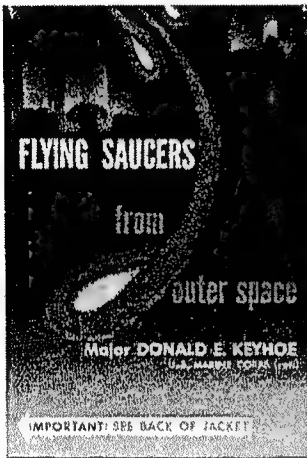
This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction □

## ACCURACY OF KEYHOE BOOK ENDORSED BY USAF OFFICIALS

The publication of *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* by Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.) in 1953, created a sensation and the book became a bestseller.



Based largely on information that he had obtained from the Air Force, Major Keyhoe concluded that the "flying saucers" (UFOs) observed by pilots and other credible witnesses were visitors from another planet.

Furthermore, that the Air Force knew this and was concealing the truth from the public.

To further embarrass the Air Force, both Albert M. Chop, the Air Force press desk representative who had made cases available to Major Keyhoe, and Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, Chief of Project Blue Book in 1951 and 1952 confirmed the accuracy of Keyhoe's reporting of the Air Force cases.

In a telegram sent to the book's publishers Ruppelt authenticated the information contained in the book "I have read this book and to the best of my knowledge the accounts of the UFOs related in it are correct," he stated. "The conclusions reached, however, were those of Mr. Keyhoe."

Later, in 1954, Ruppelt reconfirmed the accuracy of Keyhoe's reporting on the Air Force cases in a pair of letters mailed directly to Keyhoe that show a close, friendly relationship between

the two men at that time.

Al Chop had made a letter available to the publishers on a Department of Defense letterhead that was used on the dust jacket of the book. It read, in part, "We in the Air Force recognize Major Keyhoe as a responsible, accurate reporter.... All the sighting reports and other information he listed have been cleared and made available to Major Keyhoe from Air Technical Intelligence records, at his request."

The letter went even further, and expressed an open-minded attitude toward Major Keyhoe's extraterrestrial conclusion. "If the apparently controlled maneuvers reported by many competent observers are correct," he said, "then the only remaining possibility is the interplanetary answer."

One of the Air Force cases released to Major Keyhoe by Al Chop, as listed in the Appendix, was a Sept. 23, 1951, March AFB, Calif., case in which F-86 interceptor pilots tried to intercept "a strange object in controlled orbit at 50,000 feet or higher." (See Chronology, page 10, for other 1951 AF cases.)

During 1951 and 1952, UFOs were repeatedly tracked on military and civilian radar. All over the United States Air Force interceptors were sent up to investigate. The pilots, guided by ground radar, often saw an unidentified glowing object ahead of them and locked onto the unknown with their airborne radar.

Sometimes the objects seemed to play a "cat-and-mouse" game, speeding away, then slowing down again until the jet caught up, or suddenly repositioning behind the interceptor. These cases remain among the most puzzling and inexplicable on record.

In January 1953, clearly stimulated by the simultaneous radar-visual sightings,  
(Continued on next page)

## OHIO SHERIFFS' SIGHTING INSTRUMENTAL IN 1966 HEARINGS

UFO sightings in the Southwest and Midwest United States in summer 1965 had already stimulated widespread newspaper coverage and inquiring editorial commentary. When, in March 1966, Michigan and other Midwest and Northeast states were deluged with sightings, the hue and cry had already reached a fever pitch. About dawn on April 17, 1966, in Ravenna, Ohio, Portage County Deputy Sheriffs Dale Spaur and

Wilbur Neff were investigating an abandoned car. Suddenly they were confronted by a brightly glowing object that rose up out of the woods.

The object then stopped overhead, illuminating the roadway around them and emitting a humming sound. As the object wobbled from side to side, the light beam to the ground waved back and forth.

Their dispatcher instructed them to keep the object in sight until a camera car could be dispatched to the scene, so when the object started moving away, they dutifully began following it.

Soon the officers found themselves in a cat-and-mouse pursuit, the UFO alternately speeding up and pulling away, and then slowing down again until they caught up.

Their excited radio communications were picked up by other police officers in nearby jurisdictions, who positioned themselves in the path of the "hot pursuit." These officers saw the UFO speeding along at low altitude with the Portage County sheriffs in pursuit, so they joined in the chase.

Ultimately the mysterious object crossed over the Ohio state line into Pennsylvania, where some local police officers also observed it. The object hovered for a while, and then just as an Air Force interceptor approached the scene, it shot straight up out of sight.

The Air Force Project Blue Book investigators, already under fire for past questionable explanations, conducted a hasty and superficial investigation, and publicly announced that the sheriffs had been fooled by a combination of an earth satellite and the Planet Venus.

This clearly inadequate explanation created an even bigger uproar; within days the hearings occurred and the AF shake-up was underway. □

---

### Keyhoe Book Accuracy, continued.

the Central Intelligence Agency (then only about 6 years old) convened the so-called Robertson Panel to review the evidence and a new and more skeptical phase of the Air Force investigation began.

#### *Suggested Reading*

Donald E. Keyhoe, *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* (New York: Henry Holt, 1953).

Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1956).

Michael David Hall and Wendy A. Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers - 1952* (Albuquerque, NM: Rose Press International, 2000).

Kevin D. Randle, *Invasion Washington: UFOs Over the Capitol* (New York: HarperTorch, 2001).

Richard Hall, *Radar-Visual UFO Cases in 1952: The UFO Sightings That Shook the Government* (Fund for UFO Research, 1994).

## DIALOGUE WITH ➤

BARRY GREENWOOD

### Science, UFOs & Organizations

Hall: Let's start with the standard, newspaper style question. How did you first get interested in UFOs? When and how? Was there some specific event that touched off your interest?

Greenwood: I can't pinpoint anything specific. I had had a natural interest in space, growing up during the 1960s when the exploits of the early astronauts were at a peak. I had noted a few UFO stories in the press, particularly the Socorro, New Mexico incident of April 24, 1964. Such mysteries were very appealing with the possibility of extraterrestrial life being an explanation. From there I continued to accumulate "evidence" of this possibility in the form of books, newsclips, etc. Because there was such ridicule of flying saucers, I felt that there was a danger of this information not being very available over time. It piled up and I decided to make archiving a goal.

Hall: Did you join any particular group or just do research on your own?

Greenwood: I did research on my own until the mid-1970s when more funds were available to see what others were publishing. There were lots of books on the newsstands of varying quality. I tended toward the more serious ones

instead of the contactee information that seemed outlandish.

Hall: What were some of the sightings or types of sightings that first attracted your interest?

Greenwood: I think anyone with an interest in a controversial topic would want to see it in the most serious light. Military reports abounded during the 1960s. How could one dismiss UFOs where congressional hearings were ongoing and the air force was engaged in an active collection process? Mass sightings were compelling. Periodically, waves of reports broke out during 1965-1967 where large numbers of witnesses had reported pretty much the same object or objects behaving strangely. On occasion landings of these objects were reported, as in the Socorro report cited earlier. All of this was hard to dismiss simply as hallucinations, poor observations, or hoaxes.

Hall: Both of us at one point served on the Board of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and we both ended up resigning. Would you like to discuss that situation?

Greenwood: With MUFON, I was the assistant director for Massachusetts,  
(Continued on next page)

## Greenwood Dialogue, continued

which was as high as I wanted to go due to lack of time to take on more. The local group worked fine generally but nationally MUFON officials were making statements about then current (late 1980s) UFO incidents that were outright endorsements of them being proof of extraterrestrial visitations. I'm thinking of Gulf Breeze and another incident in Alabama where a metal artifact found by a witness was said to be evidence of aliens. Since it is the job of local affiliates of organizations to work as arms of the national group, I felt that endorsing these incidents as proof of extraterrestrials was inappropriate.

Hall: Gulf Breeze also was sort of the last straw for me, though some of the far-out symposium speakers at times caused me to make strong protests too.

Greenwood: We were also asked at one point by the national organization to work with the tabloid newspapers to support the goals of MUFON. The thinking was that any publicity was good publicity. Now one can't prevent tabloids from often printing wild tales about UFOs. And sometimes tabloid stories were reasonably correct. However, to make it an organizational policy to actively deal with what was widely perceived to be a dubious outlet cheapens the organization.

When MUFON professed to be a scientific organization, which it was not, and then wished to adopt the tabloid press as a media outlet, it tended toward hypocrisy. If I were to answer questions by the press about UFOs as the assistant state director of MUFON, I would have to eventually denounce some of what the organization had already endorsed. Resignation was inevitable.



Barry Greenwood

---

Hall: The "politics" of UFO groups have always been a problem. Would you comment on the type of organizational issues and personality conflicts that often come into play?

Greenwood: There seems to be an inevitable entropy within UFO organizations where admirable goals are initially set, then chaos sets in. You want to get to the bottom of a mystery. You want to do it in an organized fashion. You want to share findings with others to see if those findings hold water or leak nonsense. Then as time passes organizational matters and personal beliefs become more dominant and the original goals become obscure. Administering a UFO organization takes much time on matters that have nothing to do with the UFO debate. Meetings had to be set up and programmed. Funds need to be raised and used wisely.

Hall: The "organizational matters" certainly became a serious and time-consuming problem at NICAP. We spent half our time struggling to survive as an organization.

(Continued on next page)  
Greenwood Dialogue, continued

Greenwood: Most of the people supporting UFO research have limited time and money and don't want to deal with the small details. They want to discover what is behind the phenomenon and the preference is that it is found to be evidence of extraterrestrials or some other exotic explanation. Otherwise why bother? But because all UFO reports so far do not decisively support any such exotic conclusions but only suggest them, many UFO group members slowly drift away into other ventures. What remains in the organization are members clashing over their personal beliefs on the nature of UFOs, or battling over how to use the meager funds available, and the rest are frustrated because all this sets in.

Hall: As far as private "Ufology" is concerned, what do you think is needed to make it more effective?

Greenwood: The subject of Ufology is in a crisis from my point of view. Outside of the small group of perennially-interested investigators, researchers and long-time fans, there isn't a whole lot of concern for UFO reports anymore. It is difficult to go into a bookstore and find very much about them. Newsstand publications have virtually disappeared. To be more effective, Ufology needs more funding to be able to pay for projects that just won't be done for free.

Hall: Ultimately it all seems to come down to a lack of adequate financial support for the serious, scientific type of work that needs to be done.

Greenwood: Analyzing soil samples

costs a lot of money. Travel is costly. Constructing catalogs and inventories of document collections takes months and few are motivated in this direction without compensation. The subject needs to be made saleable to generate such funding. In this modern, media-oriented world, one or more good (and by good I mean truthful) documentaries on the caliber of say Ken Burns' "Civil War" or Brian Greene's "The Elegant Universe" could change the image of UFO research from a kooky pastime into a worthwhile inquiry about peculiar phenomena. In the unlikely event that a UFO phenomenon can be separated from a belief in what it is, then perhaps progress can be made. Until then, the money so desperately needed will continue to elude researchers.

Hall: Well said!

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## CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY: FEBRUARY-AUGUST, 1951

(Installments appear in each issue.)

Feb. 19, 1951: A large cigar-shaped UFO was observed hovering over Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya, Africa, and reportedly was photographed from an aircraft.

May 22, 1951: An American Airlines pilot in the vicinity of Dodge City, Kansas, reported seeing a blue-white starlike object that "moved backward and forward, then up and down" and finally dove below the aircraft and sped away.

June 1, 1951: A technical intelligence official based at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, who later filed a confidential report on the incident with NICAP, saw a "stubby cigar" shaped object pacing parallel to his car at night. Its leading edge was brightly illuminated. The object made a sharp-angle turn, then showing a circular outline, and rapidly disappeared.

July 9, 1951: A P-51 fighter pilot airborne near Milledgeville, Georgia, at 1340 hours encountered a whitish disc, "flat on top and bottom...completely round and spinning in a clockwise direction." The object dove beneath the P-51 and circled it for about 10 minutes before disappearing. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

July 14, 1951: A UFO which sped near a B-29 bomber above White Sands, New Mexico, was tracked on radar at a missile tracking site, observed visually, and also photographed. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

July 23, 1951: Air Force pilots flying in the vicinity of March Field, California, saw a silvery object circling high above them as the object was tracked on radar. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

Aug. 11, 1951: A former Air Force fighter pilot in Portland, Oregon, saw three disc-like objects flying in formation. (Report to NICAP.)

Aug. 25, 1951: In Texas, the famous "Lubbock Lights" were observed on several successive nights, formations of luminous objects passing overhead, and photographs were taken on August 30. Capt. E.J. Ruppelt, chief of project Blue Book, said that the individual lights "shifted position according to a definite pattern."

Aug. 25, 1951: At 2158 MST a Sandia Base guard in Albuquerque, N.M., observed what appeared to be a flying wing aircraft low overhead, showing 6-8 pairs of soft glowing lights on the trailing edge. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

Aug. 26, 1951: An Air Force radar station in Washington State tracked a UFO headed northwest at 900 m.p.h. on two different radar sets. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

The August 1951 issue of *Popular Science* magazine reported the results of a survey conducted by the editors that asked witnesses to choose the most plausible explanation for UFOs; 70% believed that UFOs were intelligently controlled devices, either man-made or extraterrestrial. □

## LETTERS FROM LEX MEBANE

To Richard Hall

### On CSICOP

I don't think you ought to be quite so indignant at the often egregious truth-twisting of Klass and the CSICOP crowd, even if it does have such nasty manifestations as the shameless libeling of James McDonald (and of all abduction-investigators, including you).

Bear in mind that the defenders of "scientism" have been faced with a fearsomely hard row to hoe: they are undertaking to prove a "universal" All (or No) proposition! To admit (reasonably) that things forbidden by their metaphysical creed "happen only rarely" would simply *not* serve the purpose: it has to be made to appear credible that they absolutely *never* happen, and that such reports are *invariably* only mistakes, lies, or false perceptions generated by naturally-abnormal or humanly-warped minds.

People who have committed themselves to proving this (actually *false*) universal "Never," if they are to hold the fort, *must* be brutally "tough-minded" scorers and ruthless tramples of all evidence that might threaten it. [There is] no use expecting them to be "gentlemanly", or even reasonable, in controversy: their unconditional defense of an actually-untenable metaphysics requires them to be (like dedicated Bible- or Koran-worshippers) unreasonable *fanatics*. [Venice, Florida; March 6, 1995.]

### On "Crashed Saucers"

If UFOs are real physical vehicles piloted by real flesh-and-blood aliens, who are native to some real planet(s) in the real space-time universe, then the law of probability should apply to

## Alexander D. Mebane

Alexander ("Lex") Mebane, 81, died Saturday, December 4 at his home in Venice, Florida. He had undergone major surgery nearly a year ago and was recovering at home.

Lex was a long-time friend and colleague, and was actively involved as an investigator, analyst, and editor in Civilian Saucer Investigation of New York in the 1950s, along with Ted Bloecher and Isabel Davis.

He was an organic chemist by profession, and had a keen intellect and a strong literary bent. His interests included so-called Fortean anomalies, to which he lent his considerable analytic talents.

The accompanying letter excerpts are published to honor his memory.

them...and so in all the tens of thousands of visits that they have paid to Earth, misfortune should sometimes have overtaken them, so that there should have been no small number of perfectly-genuine UFO *crashes*, from which the remains of the vehicles could be laid hands upon, as well as the remains of their pilots - not improbably, on some *living* UFO-nauts as well.

It would really be out of the question to believe that such events had *never* happened, if we are dealing with perfectly-physical vehicles and beings, no miracles being allowed!...Now, one who has accepted a supernatural origin for all UFO phenomena is free to deride *all* of the above propositions as mere superstitions, for which all evidence is totally spurious, and which ought not to be endorsed by anyone of a respectably

(Continued on next page)

### Mebane letters, continued.

skeptical mind. And surely the evidence runs in that direction: the MJ-12 documents proved to be really absurd forgeries...the strong confirmatory testimony to the reality of Barney Barnett's crash-with-bodies-recovery in San Agustin collapsed on skeptical investigation....

If the (unwitnessed!) crash-with-bodies-recovery supposed to have occurred somewhere near Corona can be substantiated, of course, the "superstition" (as I call it) of physical reality would be vindicated, but I am very skeptical about that.... two of the original witnesses make no mention whatever of the only *remarkable* material alleged by two others to have been part of the debris, and so I feel it possible to doubt its reality. Thus the supernaturalist is in this case in the skeptical position, criticizing the incautious credulity of the believers in physical reality. [Venice, Florida; Nov. 24, 1993.]

### On the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

Do you remember how all of us used, in younger days, to rail against the blind, closed-minded pedants who deduced from *a-priori* axioms the "impossibility" of extraterrestrial visitations, and refused to look at the concrete evidence to the contrary that was appearing before their eyes? I never thought I'd come to be one of those silly asses myself -- perhaps it shows that my brain has "fossilized," which seemed so likely a diagnosis when we were younger--yet, I believe I will stick to my established belief on this matter. ...I hope I am humiliatingly *wrong* about this .... The arguments against the *probability* of straightforward extraterrestrial

voyagers (yes, an *a-priori* argument) are, as everyone who knows anything about it has got to admit, far stronger now than they were 43 years ago, when virtually nothing was known about the solar system....

[The new knowledge] makes a devastatingly large difference in the probability equation, and requires us to postulate supraluminal space travel as not only possible but perfectly easy ....

The more the evidence accumulates, surely it is hard to deny, the worse it fits the original picture of "Martian" (as they then were) space-travelers who had just become able to reach Earth...[I have discarded] the originally-"obvious" belief that flesh-and-blood denizens of the astronomical universe were arriving in nuts-and-bolts spaceships. This now seems to me absurd.

And yet, to be sure, a mountain of direct observation "*proves*" that that is what in fact they *are*! You will naturally anticipate my reply: what it proves is that that is what they *seem to be*, and the convincing character of this impersonation proves that it can only be a *deliberate* one. So we are quite undeniably dealing with intelligent beings (smarter than we are, one must presume, in spite of their proclivity for doing all sorts of silly-looking things), but ones who are putting on a spectacularly mounted "show" (or rather a succession of shows) which can have no purpose except to make our jaws drop in wonder and our theorists jump to false explanations of them, which the shows themselves cunningly and convincingly suggest to our minds.

Beings who can transform their appearances and produce appropriate "scenery" in such a prodigious way... are, by definition, of "supernatural" character. [Venice, Fla.; Oct. 20, 1990]

# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



Vol. 1, No. 6

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Richard Hall and new bride, Marty, flanked on the couch by Idabel Epperson and Dr. Leslie Kaeburn. Marilyn Epperson and Ann Druffel are in foreground. May 1967 photo during visit with Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee members. (Story page 2.)

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Brentwood, MD 20722

### EDITORIAL

With this issue the Journal completes its first year of publication. Those of you who subscribed for one year are now due to renew. Payment can be sent by check or money order payable to Richard Hall at the above address, or by PayPal.

The previous issue was printed by a commercial press, folded (rather than stapled), and this process will be used from now on.

As usual, comments or suggestions are invited. Brief Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication. If you have questions you would like to ask any of the past interviewees, please submit them and I will seek to obtain answers. See e-mail address opposite.

### Cover Photo

The Air Force UFO investigation had been criticized in newspaper editorials, Congressional hearings had been held, and the University of Colorado UFO Project had been announced when Richard Hall and Martha Triche traveled to Hawaii to get married, stopping in Los Angeles to visit LANS (Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee) members in May 1967.

Idabel Epperson, with help from her daughter Marilyn, ran LANS. Among numerous accomplishments, Idabel got Dr. Robert Nathan of Jet Propulsion Laboratory involved in using computer image enhancement techniques to analyze UFO photographs.

Dr. Kaeburn, a biophysicist who was involved in pioneering research on heart-stimulating pacemaker implants, was a scientific adviser to NICAP and member of LANS. Ann Druffel, later a prominent author on UFOs, was another active member.

Also present at the LANS reception were engineer John Gray, a primary investigator of the 1965 Santa Ana photographs, and retired Air Force Master Navigator Paul A. Duich, who had several UFO sightings while on active duty. Personnel of this caliber made major contributions to NICAP's success.

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## Armstrong Circle Theater, Continued

On Jan. 28, 1958, Major Keyhoe sent a form letter to the NICAP membership list informing them that what he was about to say when he was cut off the air was:

In the last six months, we (NICAP) have been working with a Senate committee investigating official secrecy on Unidentified Flying Objects. If open hearings are held, I feel it will prove beyond doubt that the flying saucers are real machines under intelligent control.

One can only conclude that Major Keyhoe's credibility was such that someone feared a panic. Certainly the notion that one man's opinion would somehow violate national security or cause any sort of panic among a public eager for more information about UFOs seemed very strange at the time, and makes no more sense in retrospect.

In February, deluged by hundreds of letters and telegrams of complaint, the public relations director of Armstrong sent a form letter to inquirers, including many NICAP members. Clyde O. Hess, manager of public information, said:

It was most regrettable that a portion of Major Donald C. [sic] Keyhoe's statement had to be deleted because he departed from the prepared script. The producer and director, in observance of strict network rules, had no alternative but to order the audio cut off since they had no idea what the statement might contain. This network policy is designed to prevent any unfortunate incidents that might be embarrassing to the participants, the sponsor, the public, or the network.

### Typical Reactions to the Incident

"What was so important in Major Keyhoe's speech that we were not allowed to hear? I say this is an outrage." - Letter to *Portland Oregonian* 1/24/58

"I take no stand either way on UFOs, but I *am* going to fight for my right to know whatever it was [Major Keyhoe] said." - Letter to CBS-TV 1/23/58

"What makes me boil is that the powers that be consider the American public too stupid and childish to take this thing in stride ...Just what were your last words that we weren't allowed to hear?" - Letter to Maj. Keyhoe 1/23/58

"Call it anything you like, but it appeared to be a very shocking display of censorship; and certainly offensive to the intelligence of the American public.." - Letter to CBS-TV 1/23/58

In an amusing sidelight, the producer of the program, Robert E. Costello, had written a letter to Major Keyhoe the day after the broadcast, apparently before the storm of controversy had broken. It said, in part:

The response to the show has been very good. Any inquiries on your work we have referred to your office. You may be interested to know that you have thousands of fans as evidenced by the CBS switchboard which had calls backed up for forty-five minutes following the show.

Chagrined about the uproar he had created, Major Keyhoe promptly sent a  
(Continued on page 6)

# CBS TELEVISION

*A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc*

485 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK PLAZA 1-2345

HERBERT A. CARLBORG

*Director of Editing*

January 31, 1958

Mrs. I. E. Epperson  
3790 So. Harvard Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mrs. Epperson:

This refers to your letter of January 23 regarding the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE'S "UFO" program which was aired on the CBS Television Network, January 22.

This program had been carefully cleared for security reasons. Therefore, it was the responsibility of this network to insure performance in accordance with predetermined security standards. Any indication that there would be a deviation might lead to statements that neither this network nor the individuals on the program were authorized to release. As a consequence, public interest was served by the action taken by CBS in deleting the audio in Major Keyhoe's speech at a point where he apparently was about to deviate from the script.

Attached is a copy of a signed statement by Major Keyhoe which is self-explanatory. I am sure that you are glad to know, therefore, that this matter was handled properly. Thank you for your interest in registering your opinion.

Sincerely,

HAC:mca  
Att.



### Armstrong Circle Theater, Continued

letter to the Armstrong Cork Company and CBS taking personal responsibility for the incident, which he blamed on a "misunderstanding." His statement said:

Due to a misunderstanding on my part about rules of approval on script changes, it was necessary for Armstrong Circle Theater and CBS to interrupt a statement I was about to make...While I mentioned it to one or two persons connected with the program, I had not discussed it with the director or producer or any representative of CBS.

Certain minor ad lib changes which I made had been allowed and on that basis I had assumed that the deleted statement would not be contrary to the program rules. Since then I have been told that CBS Continuity has to approve extreme departures from scripts. Therefore, the producer and director had no alternative but to order audio cut-off since they had no idea of what I was about to say.

I regret the misunderstanding and wish to make it plain that this was not an attempt at censorship by CBS or Armstrong Circle Theater.

Left unsaid was the fact that it was an attempt at censorship by the U.S. Air Force, whose representatives applied constant pressure on the program to prevent Major Keyhoe from stating his case in his own words. Their heavy-handed influence also caused Ruppelt and Arnold to bow out at the last minute.

A very wrong-headed official policy, which NICAP was fighting to change by exposing it to public scrutiny, sought to

totally control a public discussion of the facts and issues. Thanks to Major Keyhoe's courage and determination, the policy backfired badly in this case.

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### January 16, 1958, Brazilian Photo Released by President of Brazil

As a sidelight to the Armstrong Circle Theater broadcast, just a week earlier four very clear daylight photographs had been taken of a Saturn-shaped UFO from the deck of a Brazilian naval vessel near Trindade Isle. The film was developed on board and eyewitnesses on the deck confirmed that the photos showed what they had seen.

The U.S. Air Force was well aware of the photographs through the embassy in Rio de Janeiro. This significant new photographic evidence may have been a hidden factor that concerned Air Force officials in the days leading up to the CBS-TV national broadcast in which some credible participants planned to suggest that UFOs were spaceships from another planet. □

### HISTORICAL RECORDINGS

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## CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1951

(Installments appear in each issue.)

September 1951: Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt appointed chief of Project Blue Book UFO investigation.

Sept. 10, 1951: Two Air Force pilots near Sandy Hook, New Jersey, chased a flat, round silvery UFO traveling at an estimated 900 m.p.h. (Air Force intelligence report.)

Sept. 23, 1951: F-86 jets near March AFB, California, circled beneath a UFO, unable to reach its altitude. (Air Force Intelligence report.)

Oct. 9, 1951: An aviation official in Terre Haute, Indiana, and a pilot in Paris, Illinois, successively saw a flattened sphere moving at high speed. The pilot saw it hover, then speed away to the northeast. (Air Force unexplained case.)

Oct. 10-11, 1951: General Mills balloon personnel flying near Minneapolis, Minn., had two sightings on consecutive days of sharply maneuvering UFOs surrounded by glowing halos of light.

Oct. 19, 1951: Directorate of Air Force intelligence issued R&D requirement orders for the coming fiscal years. A budget was included for "scientific examination of all files" related to evidence for the existence of UFOs and their general characteristics.

Oct. 30, 1951: An Air Force enlisted man stationed at Nellis AFB, Nevada, saw three silvery, circular objects hovering in the vicinity of the Yucca Flats atomic

test site at about 6:45 a.m. Each object was flat on bottom with a dome on top. A guard was alerted and also saw the objects, which were then joined by several additional groups of discs arranged in a row. After about 30 seconds, the objects departed upwards at an angle and disappeared in seconds. (Walter N. Webb interview report.)

Nov. 7, 1951: The captain and crew of a steamship on Lake Superior reported an orange oval in high-speed horizontal flight, with two rows of three glowing portholes visible along the side. The object sped out of sight in the direction of Ontario.

Nov. 9, 1951: Dr. Lincoln LaPaz of the Institute of Meteoritics in New Mexico commented publicly about the unusual nature and frequency of green fireballs observed over the state. There had been 7 sightings in 11 days. "They don't behave like ordinary meteorites at all," he said. (Associated Press).

### Navy Pilot 1951 Radar Sighting

In a 1957 letter to NICAP, Lt. Cmdr. M.C. Davies, reported a Fall 1951 UFO sighting when he was an air crew training officer in an anti-submarine squadron on an aircraft carrier near Korea. While flying on instruments at 5,000 feet a radar target, larger than their wingman, appeared circling the fleet. The UFO then took position behind their wingman. All 14 radars on the carrier also tracked the object, which after 5 minutes departed on a straight line course at a speed in excess of 1,000 mph.

## NEW ZEALAND UFO HISTORY: HAROLD H. FULTON

A prominent UFO researcher in New Zealand from the 1950s into the 1970s was Harold H. Fulton. He was a NICAP member and Adviser (as a sergeant in the Royal New Zealand Air Force), and later (like many other former NICAP members) became a representative of the Mutual UFO Network after the demise of NICAP. The following news story from a New Zealand newspaper reports the founding of a major UFO group there in 1952:

### Organisation to Study Flying Saucer Reports

(P.A.) AUCKLAND, Oct. 13, 1952.

An organisation - Civilian Saucer Investigation (New Zealand) - was set up in Auckland last night to prove or disprove the existence of flying saucers. It has no affiliations with the Government, the armed forces, or any society to which its members may belong.

The organisation was born from a thirst for personal knowledge and a dissatisfaction with theories already offered to explain sightings. Most of the members have been studying flying saucer reports for at least five years. They represent all interested parties - astronomers, scientists, aviators and the man-in-the-street.

A committee elected last night is: President, Mr. H.H. Fulton (a sergeant in the R.N.Z.A.F. attached to engineering); secretary, Mr. R.J. Lavaris (A member of the Territorial Air Force); committee, Messrs. G.H. Gilmore (a former commercial aviation engineering inspector), B. Purdeu (a former R.A.F. Intelligence officer), D. Lavaris (a student studying for a science degree), and



E.J.N. Greagor (an astronomer and engineer). It is understood one of New Zealand's top atomic energy men will join in the investigations. The society hopes to receive reports which will be filed from any person claiming to have sighted a flying saucer. All names will be confidential.

When notorious American contactee George Adamski visited New Zealand on a world tour in 1959, Fulton reported to NICAP on what he observed. Adamski was claiming to have regular liaison with beings from different planets, and taking frequent rides with them through space as an honored guest. Fulton was disgusted by what he heard.

*(Continued on next page)*

### New Zealand, continued

In a letter to Major Keyhoe at NICAP dated March 30, 1959, Fulton said:

Had the opportunity to listen to George Adamski on four occasions in Auckland during his recent visit, resulting in my now being certain in my own mind that his tales are largely if not wholly of his own fabrication. Absolutely disgusted in the whole Adamski business....He made the most idiotic and fantastically stupid statements while here.

In the collection of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives is a thick folder of correspondence with Fulton well into the late 1970s, when he was associated with the Mutual UFO Network and heading MUFON-NZ. □

### Hermann Oberth on Spaceships

Writing to Julian Hennessey in London, England, on May 26, 1967, Prof. Dr. Hermann Oberth, the famous German spaceflight pioneer, expressed his views about UFOs (copy in Donald E. Keyhoe Archives):

I am convinced of the reality of UFOs, but I do not know what they are. Until now the only theory about them, that could not be disproved, is the assumption of Keyhoe, that they are spaceships from other celestial bodies. But the circumstance, that this theory could not yet been [sic] disproved, is of course no proof, that they are strange spaceships indeed.

Perhaps they are quite other things, and only nobody found out, what things. Against reports of "contactees" I am rather sceptic. If UFOs should be spaceships indeed, I do not think that they have originated in our Solar System. Why they are here, I do not know.

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### Space Travel 'Utter Bilge'

Under this headline on Jan. 3, 1956, the *London Daily Telegraph* quoted Prof. Richard van der Riet Woolley, newly appointed British Astronomer Royal, as pooh-poohing the idea that man would ever travel in space; it was simply too costly.

Woolley was promptly contradicted by Kenneth W. Gatland, a council member of the British Interplanetary Society, who said: "Space travel is inevitable .... The money will come."

Woolley also debunked UFOs, citing an example of receiving a call from the RAF about an object visible in the western sky. When he looked, he saw the planet Mars.



# DIALOGUE WITH ➤

# LOREN GROSS

## "Apocalyptic" Research: Raw Data

Loren Gross is retired from the General Motors Corporation and lives in Fremont, California. He was one of the founding members of the Sign Historical Group, which focuses on the history of UFOs. Within the UFO community he is known for his series of publications on UFO history, year by year, titled *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse, UFOs: A History*.

**Hall:** You were an Air Force radar operator during the Korean War period, is that correct?

**Gross:** Yes, that's correct. I was a radar operator for the Air Defense Command (ADC) from 1956 to 1960. I was stationed at radar sites in Michigan, Korea, and Arizona

**Hall:** And I recall that you were a member of NICAP and in touch with us in the 1950s.

**Gross:** I didn't have very much contact with NICAP during my service years or right after when I attended college. By the way, after examining thousands of UFO reports I don't feel radar cases are the best kind. There is too much anomalous propagation, small aircraft entering and leaving the radar beam, and

electronic malfunctions. Some good witnesses seeing a UFO close up in daylight beats any radar return.

**Hall:** Well, some of the radar-visual cases are pretty strong. Did you personally track UFOs on the radar screen?

**Gross:** No. I did have two UFO-related incidents though. My first assignment when I got out of radar school was at the ADC site at Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, near Detroit. I was a very green 18-year-old A/3C [Airman Third Class]. When I mentioned the subject of UFOs my crew chief related an incident that occurred sometime before I arrived.

I think it is the one Major Keyhoe used in one of his books. It involved a jet chase of a pair of UFOs by a two-plane flight of interceptors, apparently scrambled out of Selfridge. The radar showed the UFOs disappearing and then reappearing behind the interceptors. This seemed impossible unless there were four UFOs, or there was some scope malfunction. A third possibility was

(Continued on next page)

## Loren Gross interview, continued

that the UFOs "jumped" over the jets between radar sweeps.

Hall: Was there any visual sighting?

Gross: I'm not sure how much visual contact there was – an important point. The RO [radar officer] usually has his head under the hood. Most pilots seem to have problems locating lights in the sky at night. They are pretty busy; that's why they have ROs. Even though I could not get much information because I was a lowly airman, I did think the data might be useful to compare with other reports of a similar nature.

Hall: What was the second incident?

Gross: Once when I was in Korea (1957) I was walking to radar ops and passed by two civilian Bendix radar technicians talking to a sergeant. The Bendix people were checking out the site's HRI (height radar). They had a portable scope hooked up so they could monitor the returns [radar target displays] as they adjusted various controls. The three men were expressing puzzlement over a number of targets at 100,000 feet. The range put the mystery targets over the DMZ (demilitarized zone) at about the middle of the Korean Peninsula. I stopped and looked briefly at the scope.

Hall: By this time you had a year or so of experience.

Gross: At that point I had about a year and a half of experience.

Hall: About how many targets were there? Two or three? Several?



Loren Gross with Sgt. Choi, Korean AF 1957 photo.

Were they "solid" appearing?

Gross:. There were at least three radar targets on the screen and they looked to be good solid returns. They were either moving slowly or were motionless. Balloons? I sent NICAP a note about the incident and enclosed the day's winds aloft figures displayed in radar ops. If I had been an officer, I could have phoned adjacent sites and requested a radar check on the mystery targets, but I wasn't so it was never done.

Hall: What career did you pursue when you got out of the Air Force?

Gross: I studied to be a teacher, went through the whole six years and got my B.A. degree. But I didn't like the profession, so I took a  
(Continued on next page)

### **Loren Gross interview, continued**

temporary job with General Motors and ended up staying with the company.

Hall: We met in Chicago during the founding meeting of the Sign Historical Group. Are you still active in SHG?

Gross: I helped SHG reach some of the goals set at the first Chicago meeting. I obtained UFO files from Dr Willy Smith, Robert Gribble, and Murray Bott of New Zealand. However, I failed to get any of Frank Edwards' files. I check the SHG web site often, but I spend most of my time writing my histories.

Hall: These days you are noted among serious UFO researchers for those histories. Your excellent "Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse" series.

Gross: What makes the history series something of value is its raw data. The series is for the use of serious researchers. I have to say that most of the credit goes to the many people who gathered the data, like Jan Aldrich and Barry Greenwood. They are the real heroes. I just passed it along.

Hall: You have been very generous in providing them to people like me. Why don't you publish them on a broader scale? I think they would be ideal for library collections where they would be accessible to a far larger number of users.

Gross: There are copyright problems if one wanted to go commercial. Besides, I don't need the money or

the ego trip. I am comfortably retired. Also, complete sets of them are available for public use at the Roswell UFO Museum, the Mutual UFO Network, and the Center for UFO Studies.

Hall: And at the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives.

Gross: Yes.

Hall: Now, the inevitable question for someone who has pursued the subject for nearly half a century: What is your opinion about the nature of the hardcore UFO reports?

Gross: My history series is biased toward the existence of very high tech machines of unknown origin. It's true that some reports seem like magic and their purpose puzzling, but to a great extent one should expect that if we are dealing with an advanced civilization. On the other hand, I'm well aware of the ideas of men like Vallee and Keel. I can't say that I'm ready to endorse any extreme UFO origin theory at this point.

Hall: What do you think needs to be done in order to attract serious, scientific attention to the subject?

Gross: Well, UFOlogists have tried hard for half a century. Personally, I believe it will be something the UFOs do that will finally alert the world.

Hall: I think so too. All we can do in the meantime is study the reports carefully and try to figure out what is going on. □



